



Dear Family and Friends,

Welcome to the November edition of the Smoken' News.

We have a wonderful month coming up. Jose Ramos returns this Friday and Saturday Dianna Shonk is holding a Blues Audience party with us to celebrate Ricky "King" Russell.

On Friday 11/11/11 Soul Alley returns with guest guitarist Timo Arthur. We love Timo and we'll be welcoming him back after a 6 month gig in Shanghai. Also returning this week from world travels is Smoken' Joe's regular, Bobby Hagen. Do we need more reasons to hold a party?

Joe has teamed up with Palm Beer to feature a limited menu Beer Dinner on Wednesday 11/16. Meet Bob Couto from Palm who will host our event. The menu was created by our own James Sklaver who will also be on hand. The festivities begin at 5PM and continue during Alizon's duo with Sir Cecil.

Due to popular demand we have scheduled Nate Stringfield for the first Thursday of each month into 2012. If you haven't heard "Mr Soul" yourself you can catch him this Thursday 11/3.

As part of our ongoing series of reflections from our own artists, we have included a feature story this month by Cheryl Arena. She made a reputation in the Boston area for her outstanding voice and harmonica playing. She has since moved to Texas but visits us a couple of times a year. She's in town now and dropped in to play last Tuesday night. She will also be highlighting Alizon's Wednesday night on 11/2, and she'll be returning with her band next month. I enjoyed her perspective on the music business and what she has been through to pursue her art.

Sunday Brunch is being served from 10 to 3 on Sundays and the feedback is good good good. Thanks to everyone who has made this a success.

If you've been in recently you may have noticed our new Sonos system for playing recorded music. We are now an official demo site due to our devotion to music and the great sound of our room. We are proud to present perhaps the best sounding music in all of Boston – and we're not afraid to turn it up.

Finally, I want to give a heartfelt shout-out to Ken Boege for editing and major contributions to this newsletter for the last 20 months. Ken is moving on in his life now and we will miss him greatly. His efforts have raised the bar for newsletters everywhere and made ours unique in the New England area.

Here is the newsletter.

## November Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 30	31	November 1	2	3	4	5
Geoff Bartley w/ Special Guest 7PM	Bruce Marshall Open Mic 7PM	Eddie Scheer w/ Dick Lourie, Gretchen Bostrom & Chris "Stovall" Brown 7:30PM	Alizon Presents: Cheryl Arena & Noe Socha 7:30PM	<b>First Thursday of Each Month:</b> Nate Stringfield's HouseKwake 8:30PM	Jose Ramos & The No Way Jose Band 9PM	Ricky "King" Russell 9PM
November 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Geoff Bartley w/ Special Guest 7PM	Bruce Marshall Open Mic 7PM	Eddie Scheer w/ Tim Gearan 7:30PM	Alizon Presents: Cheryl Aruda & Ed Scheer 7:30PM	The Hubcaps 8:30PM	Soul Alley 9PM	Luke Mulholland Band 9PM
November 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Geoff Bartley w/ Special Guest 7PM	Bruce Marshall Open Mic 7PM	Eddie Scheer w/ The Tony Gallo Quintet 7:30PM	Alizon Presents: Sir Cecil 7:30PM	Cindy Daley Band 8:30PM	Juke Joint 5 9PM	Professor Harp 9PM
November 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Geoff Bartley w/ Special Guest 7PM	Bruce Marshall Open Mic 7PM	Eddie Scheer Soul Night w/ Alley Stoetzel & Kevin Belz 7:30PM	Alizon Presents: Lisa Marie & Ed Scheer 7:30PM	Closed for Thanksgiving 8:30PM	The Love Dogs 9PM	Racky Thomas Band 9PM
November 27	28	29	30	December 1	2	3
Geoff Bartley w/ Special Guest 7PM	Bruce Marshall Open Mic 7PM	Eddie Scheer w/ "Sax" Gordon Beadle & Ricky "King" Russell 7:30PM	Alizon's Monthly Jam 8PM	<b>First Thursday of Each Month:</b> Nate Stringfield's HouseKwake 8:30PM	TBA 9PM	Erin Harpe & The Delta Swingers 9PM

## Upcoming Featured Artists



**Jose Ramos**

Friday, November 4

Photo by Ken Boege



**Soul Alley**

Friday, November 11

Photo by Ken Boege



**Erin Harpe**

Saturday, December 3

Photo by Ken Boege

**Thursday, November 3 at 8:30PM**

**Nate Stringfield's HouseKwake**

**You asked for more Nate and we're giving you more Nate. Mark your calendars, Nate Stringfield and his high energy band will be performing at Smoken' Joe's on the first Thursday of every month from now on.**

Nate the great returns for another unforgettable night of great entertainment. Drums, vocals, MC, music arranger, music director, bandleader, and former member of The Stringfield Family, Nate Stringfield has done it all. While in Pittsburg, PA, Nathaniel and band members of the Stringfield family took to the road at a very young age, touring with such luminaries as Albert King, the Temptations, Three Dog Night, and many others. Today, Nate gives every minute of every performance his all. He is a supreme entertainer playing everything from John Lennon to Al Green but what makes his music so unique are the complex arrangements crafted for each song. Nate likes to say these songs are given the "Stringfield seasoning." We guarantee that when HouseKwake plays, the house will "kwake, rattle and roll".

 **FEATURED ARTIST!**

**Friday, November 4 at 9PM**

**Jose Ramos and the No Way Jose Band**

Jose Ramos is one of Boston's most exciting and prolific Blues and R&B vocalists, and his No Way Jose! Band is a multi-cultural blend of musicians from all over the world who have been packing the clubs around Boston for over 20 years. Equally at home playing Jazz, Jump Blues, Classic R&B, Swing or Funk, Jose Ramos and the No Way Jose Band keeps audiences hot, thirsty and on the dance floor all night!

**Saturday, October 8 at 9PM**

**Ricky "King" Russell**

A frequent guest of Eddie's great Tuesday Night Allstars, Ricky "King" Russell is one of the Blues' most seasoned performers and brightest talents. Taking his cue from Blues masters past and present, Ricky plays with passion and style. His 4 CD'S are radio favorites and the song, "Big Boy" has been featured on the House of Blues Radio Hour with Dan Akroyd.

Ricky is a guitarist/vocalist/and songwriter. Described as "The Kingpin of the Blues" by the Boston Globe, Ricky always delivers from the heart. He has appeared with such notables as Honeyboy Edwards, John Lee Hooker, Eddie Clearwater, Mighty Sam McClain, Ronnie Earl, Jerry Portnoy, Duke Robillard, Kim Wilson, Tommy Shannon and Chris Layton (Double Trouble), Susan Tedeschi, Toni Lynn Washington, Roomful of Blues and many others.

**Thursday, November 10 at 8:30PM**

**The Hubcaps**

The Hubcaps are a band that recently regrouped after having been very popular at the Plough and Stars in Cambridge during the late 80's and early 90's. This is a true powerhouse band with their exciting blend of New Orleans Rhythm and Blues, a little Country, a little Rock, and some zydeco mixed in. The members of the Hubcaps include Mickey Bones (drums, vocals, Cajun accordion), Joe Pete (guitar, vocals), and Brian Rost (bass) and Mike Annis (drums). These are four of the original members of the sensational New Orleans zydeco/rock band The Boogaloo Swamis who are four times Boston Music Award winners. The fifth member of the group is a regular at Smoken' Joe's, the world travelled and award winning sax and clarinet player, Scott Shetler. Add to this a little burlesque

humor and you have one outrageously great night of entertainment.



## **TIMO ARTHUR AND ALLEY TEAM UP!**

**Friday, November 11 at 9PM**

### **Soul Alley**

Get down and bring on the funk. This band features the powerful, vibrant vocals and the alluring stage presence of one of Boston's fastest rising stars, Alley Stoetzel. Backing her up will be Louis Ochoa whose infectious fat, funky grooves will hold down the low end on bass. Rounding out the rhythm foundation is new drummer Ryan Dryburgh's solid, core-shaking drumming. Soul Alley brings a refreshing and vibrant take on the retro R&B sound, blending funky grooves with soulful vocals. Their style is cut from the same cloth as groups like Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings, Galactic, Laura Reed and Deep Pocket, bringing together well known favorites and intriguing originals for a dynamic show that can't be beat.

**Late Breaking News! Timo Arthur is back from his engagement in China and will join Alley for the night! We knew Timo couldn't stay away from Joe's ribs for too long and when he heard Alley needed one of the best damn blues guitarists around for her show, Timo hopped on a plane. Come join the fun when we groove to Soul Alley and celebrate Timo's homecoming.**

And to pass the time until Alley's show, check out some of the new songs she has been recording on her YouTube Channel:

[www.youtube.com/soulalley421](http://www.youtube.com/soulalley421)

**Saturday, November 12 at 9PM**

### **Luke Mulholland Band**

One of our favorite bands. Luke Mulholland is a rare young talent. At age 19, he could easily be considered at once a guitar virtuoso, a prolific songwriter, and a vocalist blessed with a voice that sounds wise beyond his years. His music effortlessly blends the blues, rock and pop together with a phenomenal guitar style that has earned him the admiration of fans and fellow musicians alike. He regularly opens for Dickey Betts, Bon Jovi, Blue Oyster Cult, John Mayall, and many other major rock acts. Come listen to The Luke Mulholland band perform songs from their sensational new album, *Midnight Carnival*.

**Thursday, November 17 at 8:30PM**

### **Cindy Daley Band**

Cindy Daley and Satch Romano won in the duo category of the recent Boston Blues Society challenge and competed last spring at the international competition in Memphis. Cindy Daley has been performing in the Boston music scene for 30 years. She has played with Charlie Farren, Jon Butcher, and has opened for countless headliners. Cindy describes her approach and fondness for blues this way: "It's the roots of everything. I'm a very soulful singer, I have been throughout my whole career. So, it makes sense. It's a fine line, you know. My idea is to sing blues with an edge to it, like in the 60s. I love the early blues things that Zeppelin did and The Rolling Stones did. They took old blues and just put an edge to it. It worked great that way."

The Cindy Daley Band is made up of guitarist Silvertone Steve, bass player John Allouise, and drummer Joe Bellomo.

**Friday, November 18 at 9PM**

### **Juke Joint 5**

Down home, old school, no-nonsense, house rocking, kickass electric blues... just a few of the words

we use to routinely describe the great music from one of our favorite bands, Juke Joint 5.

The Juke Joint Five brings together musicians with a commitment to the sounds that lie at the roots of today's blues: the voices of Chicago in its heyday; the raw horn-driven jump blues of the forties and fifties; the Sun Studios rockabilly twang; and the kind of Delta blues that still gets people dancing in today's Mississippi juke joints. This band is high-octane, electric, unapologetic "old school." They are: Gretchen Bostrom (vocals); Dick "The Poet" Lourie (sax); Jason Adams (bass guitar); Noah Teshu (drums); and new guitarist for JJ5, Derek Toa. Derek's fans will know him from his virtuoso guitar work with the powerful Luke Mulholland band and the highly popular Tumbleweed Company.

### **Saturday, November 19 at 9PM**

#### **Professor Harp**

Primarily playing a sparse, yet full-sounding brand of no-nonsense, no-frills Texas style blues, Professor Harp specializes in what he calls, 'roots music'. "It's whatever makes me feel good and moves me, so to speak." Indeed it has evolved while continuing to move audiences for decades.

Professor Harp performed with various bands throughout the Northeast including legends Solomon Burke and Luther 'Guitar Jr.' Johnson and played live on NBC's Today Show. Among the legions of hot performances at rocking blues clubs, the memories that often stand out for The Professor are the nights his harp helped to swell the room, in a spontaneous jam with his old mentor, the inimitable bluesman Muddy Waters.

#### **New CD available from Professor Harp!**

Responding to fan requests, the Professor has recorded some of his favorite songs along with some exciting originals. This fan-pleasing album, will be for sale at the show

### **Friday, November 25 at 9PM**

#### **The Love Dogs**

Eddie Scheer, the amazing musician, singer, songwriter, who hosts the best party in Boston every Tuesday night returns with his own band, the incredible Love Dogs. Simply put, The Love Dogs are one of the most exciting, finest, in-demand bands in New England.

This is a band that really has the recipe for the Blues. Take one red-hot horn section - we're talkin' alto, tenor, baritone saxes and trombone - down and dirty. Add liberal amounts of barrelhouse boogie-woogie piano and stinging Fender guitar. Pour over a funky and swinging rhythm section that **Blues Review Magazine** called "the best in the business", and top it all off with a crazy and charismatic front man with one of the biggest blues voices around. Then, season with a few years on the road tearing up juke joints, festivals and concert halls across the U.S. and Canada on both sides of the Atlantic. Sound tasty? It's a recipe for music and mayhem, for intensity and irreverence.

### **Saturday, November 26 at 9PM**

#### **Racky Thomas Band**

This is the man Eddie Scheer calls the coolest of the cool. He is a master bluesman with few rivals and clearly one of our favorite and most popular artists. While his band hails from Boston, Massachusetts, they play blues as though they came right out of post-war Chicago or the Mississippi delta. This band has received widespread critical praise in local, national, and international blues publications, as well as worldwide radio airplay of their two most recent self-produced CD's; Last Of The Big Spenders, and Troubled All the Time. Formed in 1995, the band maintains a steady performance schedule of over 150 dates a year and continues to earn rave reviews from critics and music enthusiasts alike. The band also has a number of festival performances to their credit, and has opened for Luther 'Guitar' Jr. Johnson, Bobby 'Blue' Bland, Paul Rishell & Annie Raines, and Susan Tedeschi.

**Thursday, December 1 at 8:30PM**

**Nate Stringfield's HouseKwake**

Like we have already said, the first Thursday of each month you can count on the high energy music of Mr. Entertainment himself, Nate Stringfield, along with one of the tightest and most impressive bands in the area, HouseKwake.

**Friday, December 2 at 9PM**

**TBA**

**A  FEATURED ARTIST!**

**Saturday, December 3 at 9PM**

**Erin Harpe & The Delta Swingers**

Put your dancing shoes on! Erin is easily one of our favorite performers here at Smoken' Joe's. She has been hailed as Boston's "authentic blues chanteuse"; although she is also in the Boston Music Award-winning electro dance band Lovewhip (along with Delta Swingers/Lovewhip co-conspirator Jim Countryman). With her new band Erin Harpe & the Delta Swingers, Erin and the gang give the music a new twist to create a genre they call "Charles River Delta Blues". The Delta Swingers feature: Jim Countryman on bass; Bob Nisi on drums and vocals; and veteran producer/blues-guy and former Tone Cool label founder, Richard "Rosy" Rosenblatt on harmonica. They've recently been given some great opportunities – opening for blues legend David "Honeyboy" Edwards at House of Blues and being invited to open for Chicago great James Cotton with his "Superharp" Band, this past November at the Regent Theater in Arlington.

**Just Announced! Erin Harpe & The Delta Swingers have been nominated, for the second year in a row, for a Boston Music Award in the Blues Artist of the Year category. Be sure to vote for Erin here:**

<http://www.bostonmusicawards2011.com/>

You can vote as many times as you like. Be sure to click "submit" after each vote.

## Smoken' Joe's Resident Artists



Photo by Ken Boege

**Sundays at 7PM**

**Geoff Bartley and Friends**

Geoff Bartley has been called both a prophet and the "Godfather of the Boston Folk Scene". He is best known for his prolific writing (having songs performed by the likes of Mary Black and John Gorka) and touring as a soloist and accompanist for Tom Paxton. He plays some mean acoustic blues and smoken' bluegrass, too. Each week he is joined by a special guest.

## **Mondays at 7 PM**

### **Bruce Marshall Open Mic**

Bruce Marshall is a veteran musician of 34 years with national experience. He is a talented song writer, vocalist, guitarist, and he has led his own bands for years in the NE area and nationally as a member of the Toy Caldwell Band. Bruce Marshall brings these collective talents as he hosts our Open Mic night at Smoken' Joe's. It's an evening where seasoned pros and emerging artists share the stage to rock the house with their fiery fortitude. You'll hear original music, blues, folk, jazz, rock, cutting edge, old timey, to name a few. Come on in where the vibe is warm and the riffs are hot. All musicians welcome.

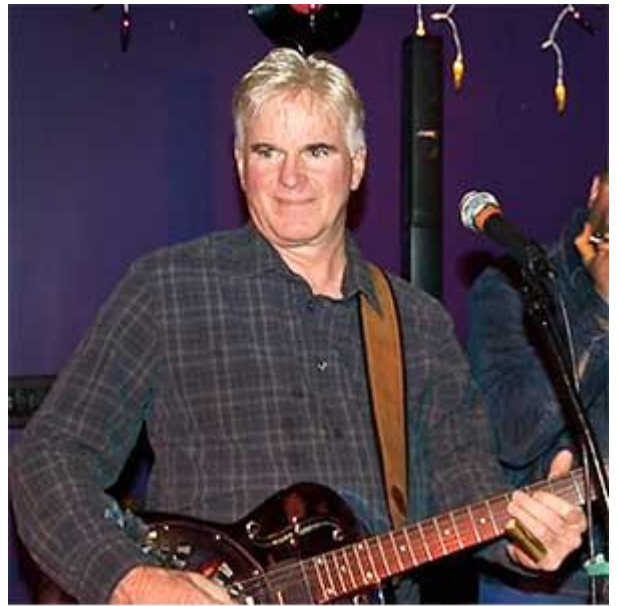


Photo by Ken Boege

## **Eddie Scheer's Tuesday Night Allstars**



Eddie Scheer

Photo by Ken Boege

Having just passed the one year mark, Eddie's Tuesday Night Allstars has become a Boston institution. It has earned the reputation as *the* place to be in Boston on any given Tuesday night. This music sensation has packed houses for every show and it's no wonder why; Eddie Scheer has filled the stage with the finest talent around and it has become a mecca for the finest blues musicians as they stop by late at night to join Eddie for a song or two.

All shows start at 7:30. This Fall, Eddie's lineup is stronger, cooler, and more exciting than ever. Here's what Eddie has in store for us this November:

### **Tuesday, November 1**

#### **Dick Lourie, Gretchen Bostrom and Chris "Stovall" Brown**

Dick and Gretchen are the horn player and lead singer of one of our favorites here at Smoken' Joe's, Juke Joint 5. When you combine their no-nonsense, kickass electric blues with the talents of the great virtuoso guitarist, Chris Brown, and Eddie Scheer, you are guaranteed a night of amazing music.

### **Tuesday, November 8**

#### **Tim Gearan**

Tim Gearan has been playing in the Boston area for about 17 years, both solo and with a band. Tim plays rootsy, bluesy rock on electric and acoustic guitar. He is a familiar and much loved musician who played Monday nights at Toad for an amazing 15 years and he is also a familiar sight at The Burren and Atwoods Tavern. Tim is considered one of the true unsung heroes of the Boston music

scene.

### **Tuesday, November 15**

#### **The Tony Gallo Quintet**

Tony Gallo began playing bass guitar and singing at the age of 14 with the popular high-energy band, White Lightnin'. Tony prides himself in his versatility and has performed with David Johansen, Luther Johnson, and James Montgomery. He has performed throughout the New England Area in many venues including Ryles Jazz Club and The Odyssey in Boston.

### **Tuesday, November 22**

#### **Soul Night with Alley Stoetzel and Kevin Belz**

Get ready for a very special night when the powerhouse blues and soul singer, Alley Stoetzel, mixes it up with one of Berklee's top guitar teachers and performers, Kevin Belz.

### **Tuesday, November 29**

#### **"Sax" Gordon Beadle and Ricky "King" Russell**

"Sax" Gordon Beadle is a mutiple W.C. Handy blues award nominee, and one of the most exciting performers you'll see anywhere! With astonishing ability and virtually unmatched energy, Gordon brings rocking sax workouts, swinging classics, gutbucket blues, and deep ballads alive like no other player on the scene today. With him will be Ricky "King" Russell who is one of New England's preeminent blues masters. His astounding guitar playing, soulful singing and encyclopedic repertoire are second to none.

### **The Stars Shined Brightly at Eddie's Allstars 1st Anniversary Celebration (October 4)**

Photos by Ken Boege



Mike Williams, Toni Lynn Washington, Eddie Scheer



Randy Bramwell, Mario Perrett



Alizon, Eddie



Shirley Lewis, Soul Alley, Rebecca Muir, Cheryl Aruda, Dick Lourie (Whoa!)



Diane Blue



Jack Ward

To see more photos from our 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebration check out the photo album on our facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150375384863489.372918.139957683488&type=3>

## Alizon Presents:



Alizon Lissance

Photo by Ken Boege

Alizon Lissance is one of New England's most intriguing performing and recording artists. Playing piano since the age of six, her gutsy rock n' blues style has been honored at home and across the world. Each week she invites a guest performer (or two) to sit in, creating a dynamic and innovative resonance. All shows start at 7:30.

**Wednesday, November 2**

**Cheryl Arena and Noe Socha**

A friend from back in the 90's, Cheryl was one of the busiest musicians in town back then as both a vocalist and harp player for the super popular Woodburn/Arena band. In 2004 she moved to Dallas to establish herself in the Texas blues scene but a couple of times a year she returns to Boston to remind us how much we love her music, her humor, and her soul. With her will be the brilliant Berklee student, Noe Socha, who not only plays incredible harp he also plays the guitar with an unusual all fingers style learned as a child when he first began studying classical guitar.

**And be sure to read Cheryl's feature article "No Place Like Home" later in this newsletter!**

**Wednesday, November 9**

**Cheryl Aruda and Eddie Scheer**

Some people were just born to entertain, and we can't think of anyone who fits more perfectly in that category than our delicate flower, Miss A. She combines an old school blues belter voice with a

razor-sharp sense of humor to put her own spin on blues and soul classics as well as some great original tunes.

### **Wednesday, November 16**

#### **Sir Cecil**

Known as the Mayor of Central Square, Sir Cecil is the guest artist who usually closes the show with Eddie's Tuesday Night Allstars. With great style and grand humor, Sir Cecil knows how to captivate and entertain an audience.

### **Wednesday, November 23**

#### **Lisa Marie and Eddie Scheer**

Lisa is a vocal powerhouse, a consummate entertainer, and if that ain't enough - one of the sweetest gals you're ever gonna meet. Lisa loves to sing the blues, but can also wail on some rock 'n' roll, get sweet on a ballad, or dig in to some honky tonkin' country songs. And wait 'til you see her dance moves!

### **Wednesday, November 30**

#### **Alizon' Monthly Jam**

The last Wednesday of every month is always a special night at Smoken' Joe's when Alizon hosts her monthly blues jam. Both serious amateurs and professional musicians are welcome to play. First the house band warms up the crowd, then, the jammers are invited onto the stage. Under the warm spotlights and in front of an enthusiastic crowd, these jam sessions are always full of surprises.

## **A FEATURE STORY**

### **Reflections by a Blues Woman - There's No Place Like Home by Cheryl Arena**



Six years ago I did the hardest thing I've ever done in my life... I left my friends and family in pursuit of a warmer climate, more music work and a much less expensive place to live. But as Dorothy so aptly said, "there's no place like home" and that still holds true for me. While the weather and the cost of living is still easier in Texas, I miss the people up here... big time! Luckily though I get to come up on a regular basis to visit and play and all thanks to my great friends here.

I can't say that Texas hasn't been good to me as it's afforded me several great opportunities, like touring with Andrew Jr. Boy Jones (former Freddie King alumni) and recording of 2 of his cds. In fact I've been able to record on several cds down there, some local and some national like Lucky Peterson and Jim Suhler (guitar player for George Thorogood). I've been hired as a "sideman" in many different genres of music besides Blues like Soul, Jazz, Americana and Gospel. Most recently I got to have a dream come true by playing at The King Biscuit Blues festival in Helena Arkansas with Big Bill Morganfield (Muddy Waters' son) because of being hired to back him in Dallas. And my teaching career has expanded to Skype lessons and students all over the world due to meeting Jon Gindick, (author of several million selling harmonica instructional books), when he did one of his harmonica jam camps in Dallas. We now teach 3 camps a year in Clarksdale, MS., in the heart of the Delta, the land where the Blues began.

In general music has been a true blessing in my life. It's taken me places I may never have gone without it. But when all is said and done, it all comes back to my roots here in New England. This is where I got my start, surrounded by great people and incredibly talented musicians that inspired me, influenced me and nurtured me to become the person and musician I am today.

And every time I step on that plane to come up and visit and play I'm like a little kid filled with joy and excitement about coming home. There's nothing that could ever take the place of my friends here and of course I couldn't do it without the help of my friends here... like Alizon and Ed Scheer, two of my dearest friends in the whole world! Everytime I come up, the first place I try to hit is Smoken Joe's and I spend as much time as possible cuz the "hang" is so cool!

I'm happy to say that I'll be doing 3 gigs at Smoken Joe's in the near future:

**Wednesday, November 2 with Alizon and the incredible Noe Socha**

**Wednesday, November 2 with Alizon**

**Tuesday, December 13 with Eddie's Allstars**

**Friday, December 30 with Ricky "King" Russell, Eddie Scheer and Randy Bramwell**

You can also expect to see me hangin' out @ Joe's on some of my "off" nites as well... It sure is great to be home!!! See y'all at the gigs!

— Cheryl

# A **SMOKEN Joe's** PHOTO SHOOT EXCLUSIVE!

## Babes, Blues, BBQ & Brews

It has come to our attention that not only do we have the best damn barbeque, the best live blues, and the best customers in the world; we also have the most awesome group of servers and bartenders anywhere, anytime, and any place. And yes, these women are beautiful. Sorry, all you other mediocre restaurants and clubs out there but life isn't fair.

Nikki Chase was a fantastic model for our t-shirt ads and our "Get the SJ Look" promotion two months back. As it turns out, Nikki isn't the only one on our staff who radiates in front of a camera lens and under some hot lights. I took a fairly extensive set of photos, both individual shots and some fun group shots like this one. In the coming weeks we will be using these photos for some new promotions that you do not want to miss. Did someone say trading cards? Collect the whole set and you get what???

A big thanks to Lauren for a great idea and to CJ for coordinating everything and for her boundless enthusiasm.  
— Ken Boege



(L-R) Lauren, Emily, "C J", Nikki, Angelina, (Front) Traci

# A **SMOKEN' Joe's** NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

## Usher in the New Year with Sensational Guitarist Peter Parcek and Your Friends at Smoken' Joe's



It figures that Wendy Dodd would book one of the classiest, most creative, exhilarating blues and jazz guitarists in America for the annual Smoken' Joe's New Year's Eve celebration. We are very excited to announce that Peter Parcek and his trio will be here to usher in the New Year. This is going to be one of the best parties in Boston and it will sell out quickly. More details on this special evening will be announced in the next few weeks on our facebook page, via email, and of course you can always stop by the restaurant to find out the latest news.

If you are not familiar with Peter, he is simply one of the finest, most innovative blues/jazz guitarists to play in the Boston area. Recommended for a Grammy nomination this year, Peter Parcek's daring, incendiary and soulful style is a hybrid. He weaves rock, gypsy-jazz, country, folk, and blues-- especially blues-- into a tapestry of melody, harmony and daredevil solos that push those styles to their limits without sacrificing the warmth of his own personality. Peter calls his approach "soul guitar," an appellation that alludes to his playing's depth of feeling and character that is a combination of deepest roots in classic American music and a look to the future.

He recently completed *Pledging My Time*, a four song tribute to Bob Dylan. These four songs represent some of Peter's personal Dylan favorites and are available to music fans at a name-your-own-price and can be downloaded from Peter's website:

[www.peterparcekband.com](http://www.peterparcekband.com)

**And be sure to hear Peter when he next performs at Smoken' Joe's on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Note from Wendy: Peter was selected as one of 32 artists for inclusion on Sonos' new in-store demo. His song "New Years Day" is in the blues category and you can hear it in over 6000 stores worldwide including Target and Best Buy.

# **A *SMOKEN' Joe's* SMOKEN' REMINDER**

## **The First Thursday of Every Month Nate Stringfield's Housekwake**



**Thursday, November 3**

**Thursday, December 1**

**Thursday, January 5**

**Thursday, February 2**

**You get the idea...**

# A **SMOKEN' Joe's** EXIT STAGE RIGHT

## A Thank You and Goodbye from Ken Boege

This will be the last newsletter I write for Smoken' Joe's. For those of you who have been counting, this is number 20. I do most of the photography, the graphics, and most of the writing and it really takes a lot of time to put together. On top of that it requires additional time staying in tune with goings on at the restaurant, with our musicians, and some of the blues events around town. I can no longer afford to invest so much of my time in this production even if it is great fun.

A few weeks ago Barrett Anderson made a comment that he enjoyed watching the newsletter evolve. I believe a good creative endeavor takes on a life of its own. What began as a simple newsletter has really grown into a small magazine with several editions running 18 pages long. I have truly enjoyed my creative discussions with Wendy and the free reign she has given me. I am grateful for the many compliments I have received these past two years about the newsletter and appreciate the contributions several musicians have made to it. I believe the newsletter has accurately reflected the genuine good nature of Smoken' Joe's with its love of music, appreciation for fine food, love of brew, and of course the joy of time spent with good friends.



'BRADLEY WAKEFIELD and THE NEW BREED' will be featured at a town-wide dance for Town junior and senior high school students at the West Hartford 'Y' on Feb. 9 from 8:11:30 p.m. Identification as West Hartford students or residents will be required.

Shaking up the suburbs north of Hartford with  
our 60's era rock.

Since I have spent so much time in past issues telling you about distinguished musicians and events, both great and small, I think I will indulge a little here and tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up in a small, quiet town north of Hartford called Bloomfield. I was a pretty good student in High School but I don't remember thinking about much else besides cars, guitars, and girls. I was in a couple of bands and the best one was the one pictured above— Bradley Wakefield and the New Breed. Our musicianship was definitely mediocre but our singer, Bradley, the black kid standing on the chair, was a star with a beautiful soulful voice. He was a runaway who lived in various locations in Hartford. Before Hendrix, he was dressing in outrageous clothes and wore makeup. When we played in the

mostly white suburban towns around us, we left quite the impression. At the time I had a part-time job after school working for a greenhouse. With the band playing regularly, I was making quite a lot of money for a teenager so I got together with a couple of friends and we rented a furnished apartment a few miles down the road in Hartford. We never spent the night there. It was our clubhouse. Our parents never knew. The band ended when Bradley was arrested and sent to jail.

A friend of mine, a singer, was going to Emerson college and he encouraged me to go to Boston University. Before long I hated it there and made a life changing move and enrolled at the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts. Back then, the Museum School was an amazing place. There were virtually no rules. You ate, slept, talked, walked art. It was heaven. Around that time I had some success making some odd, arty, "underground" movies that played the festival circuits. When a school friend, Steven Lisberger, started an animation studio, I joined him as their third employee. Back then, it was all hand drawn and a rarity. We were the only ones in New England doing it and we grew fast. We made animated openings for PBS, short pieces for The Electric Company Make a Wish, a bunch of TV commercials and eventually made two specials for NBC working with Yellow Submarine producer, Al Brodax. One night I met a computer animation pioneer, Ron Hays, at the Museum of Fine Arts where he was screening some of his mind blowing computer animated visuals set to classical music. He was one of the first to do this. I introduced him to our artists at the animation studio and it set in motion a set of ideas that evolved into the original feature "Tron" made at Disney Studios. Steven Lisberger wrote and directed it. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collector's Edition of Tron has a bonus CD and if you look through it patiently, you'll find a picture of young Ken.

Another highlight from that era was helping my girlfriend's roommate, Margie Short, finish up her film project at Boston University. I did some of the camera and audio. The film was called Kudzu. It was funny, clever, and was eventually nominated for an Academy Award.

When I lived in California for seven years where my first two children were born, I did some writing and also worked for a very small video company. We worked on some interesting low budget films and made some super cheap K-tel music collection advertisements working with artists including Andy Williams and Etta James. We also did some short pieces for the funniest man I have ever worked with, Jay Leno. This was before he was made the permanent host of The Late Show. Additionally, we made a number of videos for the Playboy Channel sometimes using their playmates... Ooh lala! I've been to Hugh Hefner's mansion but never to any of his parties.

Since the California era, I've done a lot of business graphics for high tech companies and travelled quite a bit with two consulting firms. My last full time corporate gig was working as a senior designer at Lucent Technologies, before it imploded, back when it was big and rich. While there my primary project was a series of multimedia videos that displayed Lucent's vision of the future of telecommunications, a project called Lucent Network Genome. We had a great team working on this and it won a long list of corporate awards. We also had deep pockets in those days and I was able to hire a computer animation firm in San Francisco called Giant Killer Robots. They had done work on two of the Matrix movies and they are probably the best artists I have ever worked with in my life. Simply amazing. Our California producer for this series still has the series posted on his web site and you can find it with a simple search.

So, that is a little about me. While I will no longer be writing the newsletters I will continue to do some photography and small projects. Like Wendy told me, nobody leaves the family. And even if I am not there as often, I still look forward to stopping by Smoken' Joe's, having some of his delicious gumbo, hearing some great blues and raising a beer with so many very fine people I have befriended these past two years.

— Ken Boege

Well that about sums it up. We'll miss you Ken but I sure understand how everyone needs to grow and change. We'll be following your career for years to come.

I have a special surprise contributor for next month's edition but you'll have to wait for that.

Enjoy your month and I hope to see you at Smoken' Joe's.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy". The script is fluid and cursive, with the 'W' and 'y' having long, sweeping tails.

**The Smoken' Newsletter © 2011**

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