

# INSIDE BLUES

December, 1999: Vol. 8, Issue XII

The Finest Blues Rag in the Inland Empire

## Tearin' It Up In Wenatchee

by Scott Higgin

The R.L.S. concert series hit the ground running last November 13 with both DX Biscuit and the Charles White Band turning in outstanding performances at the Wenatchee Convention Center. These shows feature excellent regional and local bands, and are definitely worthy of a weekend get away for those of us who don't live in the immediate area. DX Biscuit opened the show with up-tempo, toe tappin' tunes that quickly gathered momentum until it was impossible to stay seated. Fortunately this venue boasts a huge dance floor, because every inch was needed minutes into the opening set. Of all the incarnations of this band, DX Biscuit (formerly The King Biscuit Blues Band) has never sounded better. These talented veteran musicians came out to have a blast and it was infectious. Delighting the audience with showmanship and a relentless boogie/swing beat as the saxman jumped down into the dance floor crowd to do his lead up-close and personal. They may be DX "King" but they still rule.

In 1997 the Charles White Band won the Inland Empire Blues Society's Empire Award for Best N.W. Regional Blues Album for "Not Easily Amused," the only band from outside the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene area to do so. Based in Seattle, they have also garnered awards from the Washington Blues Society including Charles's "Entertainer Of The Year" award. It's a real treat to see this band east of the Cascades. Well, DX opened this can of whoop ass, and Charles was going empty every drop of good times with a James Brown like stage presence backed by his excellent band. A man of small physical stature, he is just huge on stage. With a soulful voice and moves that make you think he might be missing a vertebra or two, Charles captures your attention and won't let go. In no time at all this band had everybody enthralled, especially the ladies at the front of the dance floor, as Charles sang to each one of them. With several encores this show lasted right up to the time limit on the permit, ( at the urging of the crowd, Charles played through the time signal to bring the show to a close from the sound and light crew) but it was so much fun it went just too damn fast!



Next up this December 11th is our own Charlie Butts and the Filtertips opening for Ellen Whyte & Reflex Blue. Charlie and crew have won several Empire Awards, and this year were nominated for Best N.W. Regional Album, for "Told You Once".

Ellen Whyte & Reflex Blue are from the Portland area and have received nominations at the 1999 Muddy Awards for "Best Contemporary Blues Band", "Best Regional NW Recording", "Best Guitarist", and "Best Female Vocalist" from the Cascade Blues Association. Known as "The Neon Blonde of the Blues," Ellen is a tremendous performer with a powerful voice, and likes to work the crowd by moving around on the dance floor and singing from table to table.

This is going to be another great show not to be missed, so make your reservations! And just to make it easier, R. L. S. Entertainment Enterprises, in conjunction with the Wenatchee Westcoast Center Hotel, is offering special 'R. L. S. Blues Hotel Rate' while they last for \$59.00 plus tax; call (509) 662-1234 for reservations. This price only cover the room expense. Reserved and Festival tickets are \$20.00 advance and \$24.00 the day of the show. There is a \$2.00 discount per ticket (up to 10) to Mission Ridge, Steven's Pass and Schweitzer Mountain Resort 1999-2000 Season Pass holders through Wenatchee Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau (509)663-3723 or R.L.S. Entertainment Enterprises (509)662-MUSC (6872). Reserved tickets are available only through R.L.S. Entertainment, so call for table arrangement and availability. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and music starts at 8:30 p.m. Motorbark Sound and Lighting will be providing two semi's full of lights and sound to help make this a phenomenally memorable event. For more information call Robert Sandidge from R. L. S. Entertainment Enterprises at (509) 662-MUSC (6872). You must be 21 to attend.