

Kansas City

January 2006

# Blues News

Published monthly by the Kansas City Blues Society,  
twice nationally recognized for "Keeping the Blues Alive"

- Silver Anniversary a hit!
- Billy Ebeling hosts jam  
Jan. 12 at Knuckleheads
- Mardi Gras getting closer



*Billy Ebeling & the  
Late for Dinner Band  
host monthly jam*



# Billy Ebeling hosts FREE monthly KCBS jam Jan. 12 at Knuckleheads Saloon

Paul "Dr. Bone" Scofield

The January KCBS meeting and jam fall on Thursday the 12th and will take place at Knuckleheads.

Because he hosts a regular Saturday jam at Knuckleheads, this month's host, Billy Ebeling, is going to use his regular Saturday jammers as his backup band.

He will begin the night with some consistent first set all-stars — Dwane Goldston on drums, Evin Moore on bass and Steve Wright on sax. These guys will back Billy for four or five songs, and then he will rotate other jammers into the group.

His Saturday jam started nearly two years ago and has grown to become one of the best in town.

If you listen to KKFI, you will have heard Billy's music. He is a prolific songwriter, having recorded more than 14 CDs, some with a band and some solo. He tells me his songs come in bunches, usually writing several songs over a relatively short time. He is currently working on material for a new studio CD, plus a live CD.

Billy grew up in Lawrence but has expanded his horizons significantly.

He has toured Europe, Hong Kong, Canada, Mexico, Central America and Fiji and has played with or opened for Brownie McGhee, Red Holloway, Buckwheat Zydeco, Taj Mahal, Keb Mo, Robert Jr. Lockwood, John Hammond, Johnny Johnson, Little Charlie & the Night Cats, the Tailgators and Wayne Toups.

In 1977 he began learning guitar from an older brother. His brother moved out and left Billy an old guitar that he used to practice like crazy. He also started learning harmonica about this same time, and within six months of beginning to play, he was performing for the public.

In 1985 he moved to the South Pacific and spent five years in New Zealand and seven years in Australia, making a living as a musician.

With the population centers spread so far apart, it was very helpful to be able to stay in one town for an extended stay. You don't make much money playing for the kangaroos in the bush on long trips. Australia has an active blues scene, and most of us are familiar with Dave Hole, Lloyd Spiegel and Harper.

Billy's brothers joined him down under, and they performed as a group and have recorded two CDs together.

Some of Billy's efforts to make ends meet

were as a solo street musician. He has developed the skill of playing guitar and harmonica on a rack à la John Hammond and does it very well, putting a lot of emotion into his performances.

I know I've said it before, but I have a lot of respect for the people who can sit down and deliver the blues to an audience one-on-one. Billy felt the need to add some keyboards to his bag of tricks but was hesitant about how well his hands would operate independently, so thinking it would be easier to have one hand on keys and one hand on buttons, he decided to take up the accordion.

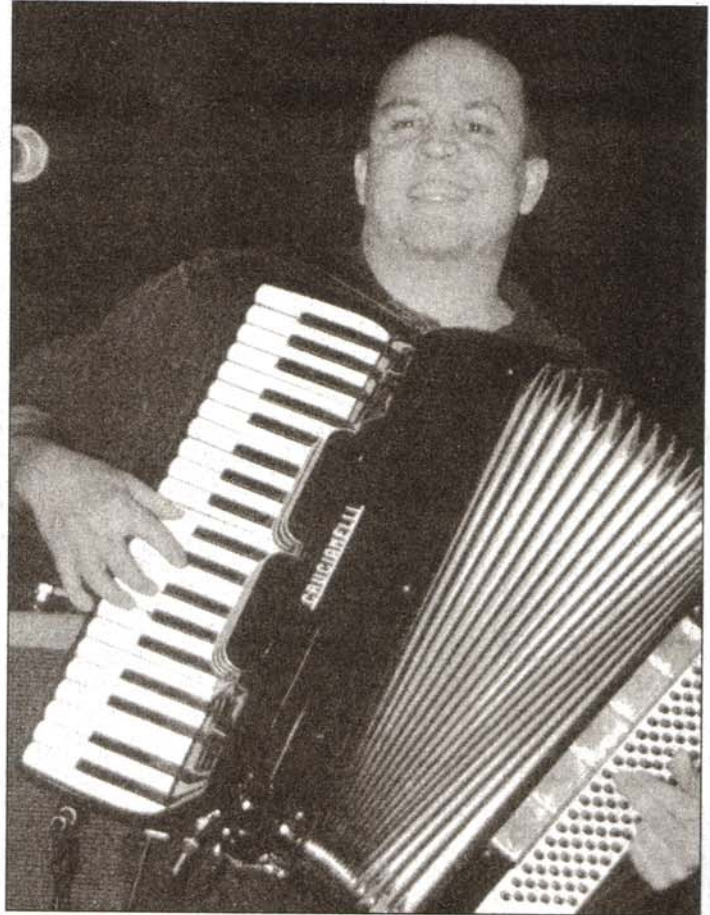
He soon discovered the error of his logic and had to learn piano in order to learn accordion. So

you may see him start out the evening on guitar, put the harp rack on for a few songs, take off the guitar and harp and play accordion (aka chick-magnet) or keyboards, then pick up the guitar and a slide and wail and even play banjo (aka hick magnet).

Billy came back the U.S. about four years ago to be closer to his family because of a new niece.

She inspired the music that became the CD, *Lay Down Lullabies*, along with *Filé Gumby* and *Big As Dallas*. Billy has been working on recording the Saturday jams and donated a CD full of jam tunes recorded last year as a benefit for New Orleans musicians.

Billy's Late For Dinner Band is composed of Paul Matthews on drums and Chris Shaw on



**Billy Ebeling on one of his many instruments. Come down to Knuckleheads on the 12th to see him, his Allstars and a host of jammers.**

bass. Both guys sing "great harmonies," Billy says.

Paul went to high school with Billy and appears on two tunes on the Ebeling Brothers CD (which was picked up by EMI in '91).

Chris has been with the band for a year and a half. You will hear an eclectic mix of mostly originals, ranging from blues to country, through Zydeco to Led Zeppelin.

Billy and the band are tight group, easily adapting to quiet, up-scale situations, and more relaxed, let-it-loose spots such as B.B.'s Lawnside Bar-B-Q. His schedule reflects his versatility, including solo gigs at Jazz Louisiana Kitchens and private parties. Late For Dinner gigs include Jazz, Zig & Macs and B.B.'s Lawnside Bar-B-Q.

To get a detailed gig list check out his web-

*Continued on Page 10*