

SUNCOAST HARMONICA CLUB NEWSLETTER #1: 2006

This is the first newsletter of 2006. With the Web site up and evolving the newsletter will be changing content too.

WWW.SUNCOASTHARMONICACLUB.ORG

Having the Web site now changes everything.

1. I will no longer be answering the frequently asked questions such as:
What does the club do?
How can I get started playing the harmonica?
Who is in my area that I can meet to practice with?
Are there any instructors in my area?
2. I won't have to have announcements in the newsletter about who is playing where and when because the calendar tells us and Mark is setting it up so all of us can contribute to that when we know of something.
3. If we all register as members on the Web site others can find out where we are and contact us for getting together for mutual harp and music interests. We can use the message board to find others to set up groups to perform and practice and learn together. We can even use the board for virtual meeting rooms.
4. The Web site will have contact information for local and national instructors and instructional materials. That is something really needed for us in this area.
5. We can all post "tips and tricks" for techniques, theory, and other matters related to improving performance on harmonica.
6. We can post videos, audio, and pictures of ourselves and professional performers to enhance our experience in seeing and listening.

The Web site is intended to serve our club membership as a way to enhance our getting to know the music, instrument, performers, instructors and other members. Mark Rigsby and his colleague, Larry the computer geek, have done a lot of work in a short time. Mark wants our suggestions so feel free to email or call him or me. Contact information is on the Web site.

Gaye Adegbolola Seminar and Performance

I saw the following on the Blueswax ezine and since it is not on the Web site calendar yet am putting in the newsletter. Gaye is also a pretty good harp player from what I have read. T.C. Carr is definitely a good harp player.

Vocalist, guitarist and songwriter **Gaye Adegbalola** is a founder member of **Safire: The Uppity Blues Women**. She will present a free seminar "History Of Women In The Blues" from 2 to 5 P.M. on January 28 at the New Port Richey City Library (5939 Main Street, New Port Richey Florida). Refreshments will be served. Later that day, at the Bourbon Street Night Club/ Concert Hall (4331 US

Hwy 19, New Port Richey) there will be a free acoustic concert. Doors open at 7 p.m., **T.C. Carr** and **Lenny Austin** will open the show at 8, and **Gaye** and **Roddy Barnes** will take over from 9 to 11. Donations will be accepted for library expansion.

Iceman and Mark Hummel

We are in discussions with Larry Eisenburg (the Iceman) to have him and Mark Hummel, who will be touring in Florida with a variation of his harp blowout events to provide the club with a four hour seminar/ workshop in late February or early March. Exact date and cost is to be determined. It will include Mark's lead guitarist from the Blues Survivors as a guitar slave. It will be held on a Saturday to make it more accessible and we will find a secluded hotel meeting room to have it. The Iceman is the teacher for four club members; myself, Karen Randall, Brian Purdy, and Chip "CapnCrazyHarp" Swidel. I hope to post some videos and more information on him for the Web site soon. Check out Mark Hummel's Web site, <http://www.markhummel.com/>

Making the Suncoast Harmonica Club "Legal"

Well..... It has come to this point where it may not be in our interest to keep the club totally informal. The Jason Ricci/Michael Peloquin seminar cost about \$800 and we took in \$775 from members attending. Linda and I fronted the fees, material and motel costs. Jason Ricci donated \$100 back to the club to help with a Web site or whatever we needed to get things going and that money sits in Linda's desk drawer. Mark Rigsby has so far donated his money and time to get the Web site up. He has paid to register our domain name and a one year Web site that we have control over.

The point is that we now have fiscal and perhaps copyright liabilities and issues, even if they are small. We probably should set up a bank account.. Some of us have talked about doing some fund raisers such as T-shirts with the club logo(s), videos of local performers, or other events/products to further our cause. We may want to have small dues or donations later.

What this means is that we may want to incorporate as a non profit club and register with the IRS as a 501 organization so that there is no tax liability. Doug Bagge is a club member and a lawyer. I asked his opinion and he responded as follow. Thanks Doug.

Dewey-

The primary reasons to formally "incorporate" a club would be (1) to allow the club to set up a bank account for intake of dues and other money and for the reimbursement of common expenses and (2) to limit the theoretical liability of its members to legal exposure caused by the activities of the club. As far as "(2)" is concerned, the legal exposure (tortwise) is almost non-

existent so long as the joint activities of the club members are on a not-for-profit basis. This is because individual persons are not liable for the acts of others, unless the acts were taken in furtherance of association of two or more persons to carry on as coowners a business for profit (the legal definition of a partnership). Jointly conducted activities for hobby purposes is not a partnership and the participants are not bound by each other's acts. On the other hand, club members promoting an event that involves financial commitments would have personal contractual exposure under these commitments, unless a club were incorporated and the commitments undertaken in the name of the club and not individual members. I think everyone really appreciated the personal effort and exposure you took on in organizing the last event.....and would also recognize that it would not be fair to expect an individual to have to do that for a group on a recurring basis.

I would hold off on incorporating the club (and seeking 501(c) status) until we know we will have a continuing need for funding events and a bank account for payment of expenses and collection of funds to cover the expenses. If the Ricci/Peloquin workshop is just an occasional activity, it might not be worth the trouble to organize legally. On the other hand, if the club members foresee future such activities, incorporating and filing for non-profit status could make good sense.

Members--Please let me know your thoughts too

Respectfully-but in a Bluesy, Jazzy way
Dewey Kribs