

Blues Jam Energizes Port Townsend

Jan 27, 2017 – Port Townsend, WA: Port Townsend is a dynamic small town at the corner of Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. It is well known as a vacation spot, marine center, and as a mecca for the visual and performing arts. There are more good musicians per capita than most places in the world, and opportunities to perform at open mics four to five times a week.

When “Chicago Bob” Longmire moved into town in late 2014, he got active in the open mics quickly, but he could not find a good blues jam anywhere. So he started one. The event known as “Chicago Bob’s Gently Amplified Blues Jam” has been running continuously for over a year now, and is established as one of the cultural touchstones in this highly artistic town.

The Gently Amplified Blues Jam is held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Highway 20 Roadhouse in Port Townsend. The band leading the jam has even evolved into a performing quartet.

“We’ve had a great reception from the Road House and the other clubs around here,” said Barb “Lulu” Dawson, pianist for the band. “It’s especially fun when people jump up to dance at the Blues Jam and at our other gigs.”



The Midnight Train Blues Band includes “Chicago Bob” Longmire, guitar and harmonica; Barb “Lulu” Dawson, piano; Tamahra Martin, the “Pompitus of Percussion;” and “Five String Glen” Hellman, bass.

“This is a different experience from an open mic,” said Chicago Bob. “At our jam, people are welcome to play along all night with the band. We’ve had guitars, horns, harmonicas, blues fiddlers, flutes, vocalists, dancers, anything you can imagine. And people are coming in to sing, laugh, dance, and just to listen to the great material we play!”

The Blues Jam revolves around a lot of blues classics and good time tunes selected for maximum fun, danceable rhythms and musical interest. Chicago Bob was part of the Chicago blues scene for over 40 years, and everyone in the Midnight Train Blues Band has been playing most of their lives.

Chicago Bob’s Gently Amplified Blues Jam is held at the Highway 20 Roadhouse in Port Townsend (2152 W. Sims) from 6 to 9 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. The Blues Jam is free, and is open to all ages. The Roadhouse has a full food and drink menu.

You can contact the Midnight Train Blues Band by email at bob@longmire.org.