

# Thanks for 26 years of support!

This year's event is presented by the Great Northern Blues Society, a group of music lovers who put on this terrific show each year. With funds raised by this event, the GNBS has so far granted more than \$30,000 worth of scholarships to qualified area students at Wausau East, Wausau West, D.C. Everest, and Wausau Newman High Schools. We also support the Memphis, TN based Blues Foundation, which sponsors many organizations that help the Blues Music Community.

This event has been planned and executed by a group of people that make up the current active membership of the GNBS. Bottom line is that we are all getting one year older each year, and it has come time for some new blood to get involved in managing and running the GNBS. If you have a love for this music, and do not want to see this show fade off into the sunset, we need you to step up and get involved. Visit our website or email (board@gnbs.org) us if you're interested.

We are eager to have some new people put their own personal stamp on the future of the GNBS. Our meetings are held at Loppnow's Bar, in the back room, every second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 PM.

## How membership dues are used ...

Your membership is important for us to continue with the programs below.  
Single memberships are \$20.

**Scholarships to area students :** This year we will award five \$500 scholarships to musically inclined students in our area.

### Blues in the Schools events :

Yearly events to expose blues artists to students within the region.

**Blues Foundation donations :** Donated \$1000 to help with construction of the Blues Hall of Fame in Memphis.

**WXPR's Friday Night Blues :** Commercial-free blues in the northwoods.

**The Blues Café :** Our annual fundraiser providing award-winning national talent at a beautiful venue, for a great price.



### GNBS OFFICERS

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Rylan Hoerter  
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Rylan Hoerter

**MARCH 13-14, 2026**  
**SATURDAY**  
Doors Open at 1:00pm

AT THE ROTHSCHILD PAVILION  
WAUSAU METRO AREA  
1104 PARK ST.  
ROTHSCHILD, WI 54474

**the Blues Cafe**

**FRIDAY**  
Doors Open at 5:30pm

**D.K. Harrell @ 8pm**

**The Stephen Hull Experience @ 6pm**

**The Blue Notes featuring Jay Stulo @ 8:30pm**

**Birdog Blues Band @ 6:30pm**

**Leilani Kilgore @ 4pm**

**Featuring... Alexander Craig between shows**

**Big Al Dorn & the Blues Howlers @ 2pm**

**GREAT NORTHERN BLUES SOCIETY**

\$45 for Advanced Tickets • \$10 for Friday Only or \$55 for Both Nights (when you pay at the door)

For Tickets & Info: **GNBS.ORG**

## Welcome to the Great Northern Blues Society's 26th Annual Blues Café

March 13-14, 2026 • Rothschild Pavilion

- FRIDAY NIGHT -

### 6:30PM – Birddog Blues Band

The Birddog Blues Band is a group of Midwest musicians, primarily from Wisconsin, known for their blend of blues, rock, R&B, and soul. The band features award-winning musicians including Mel Ford on guitar and vocals, Tom McCarty on bass and vocals, Ken Olufs on harmonica and vocals, and Joel Brantmeier on drums. They play an eclectic mix of ‘dance-inspiring’ Blues, Rock, R&B and Soul.



### 8:30PM – The Blue Notes, featuring Jay Stulo

Jay Stulo has been playing, fronting, and leading blues bands since the late 1980’s. He has toured the nation several times and released five CDs. Jay first picked up guitar at the age of 14, learning some basic chords from his father, a early rock-a-billy guitarist. He joined his first working bar band Gypsy Rose at the age of 17.



- SATURDAY -

### 2:00 PM – Big Al Dorn & the Blues Howlers

“Big” Al Dorn brings an original, authentic raw blues sound with a nod towards West-Coast Swing and Mississippi Hill Country Blues to go along with it. Smokin’ Hot Grooves coupled together with powerful harmonica and stinging guitar. He plays original tunes and classic covers by John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, RL Burnside, The Chicago and West-Coast Harp Legends. This hard working, rising young star is a force to be reckoned with and a definite “Must See”!



Born and raised on the Eastside of Milwaukee, Al began his career busking on street corners for pocket change until a chance encounter with local Blues Artist Reverend Raven catapulted him into local stardom. Through the Reverend, this astonishing young star has toured with and opened for some of the biggest names in the Midwest such as Lil’ Ed Williams, & Charlie Love.

### 4:00 PM – Leilani Kilgore Band

A Nashville transplant hailing from the West Coast, Leilani Kilgore serves aggressive hard-hitting rock with a touch of meaningful blues and fearlessly



honest emotional expression. Over the years, I have studied under accomplished and skilled musicians that have helped me achieve multi-genre experience as a guitarist/singer, including attending Berklee College of Music as a scholarship student. Now a regular performer in Southern California, both as a soloist and band leader, I continue to work as a professional musician and make a name for myself in the blues and rock genre. I am continuously inspired by musicians such as Jack White, Joe Bonamassa, Robben Ford, Gino Matteo, Chris Cain, Tom Waits, Son House, Jimmy Page, John Hiatt, Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, John Scofield, B.B. King, Beth Hart, Etta James, Albert King, and others.

### 6:00 PM – The Stephen Hull Experience

The Stephen Hull Experience gives the blues community exciting evidence that the future of music is in good hands. Born in 1999, a native of Racine, Wisconsin, Stephen Hull started playing blues at age 14 and never stopped, taking cues from Albert King and B.B. King as he developed his sweet, soulful guitar sound.



Balancing that with his absolutely stellar lead vocals and infectiously buoyant personality, Stephen has been rising fast in the blues clubs of Chicago and venues across southeastern Wisconsin. Appearing in blues magazines such as Living Blues (U.S.) and Blues & Rhythm: The Gospel Truth (UK), Stephen has been interviewed by a myriad of media including Lake Effect (broadcast on Milwaukee’s NPR). From the Chicago Blues Fest to the Mississippi Valley Blues Fest, The Stephen Hull Experience is making headlines.

### 8:00 PM – The D.K. Harrell Band – Louisiana’s New Bluesman

Guitarist, vocalist and songwriter D.K. Harrell, one of the most formidable young stars of the current blues resurgence, sounds like no one else on the scene today. With his stinging, single-note string bending, deep soul vocals, and attention-grabbing original songs, the 27-year-old Harrell — a major draw at blues festivals around the world — is already in a league of his own.



Now, with his Alligator Records debut album, *Talkin’ Heavy*, D.K. Harrell cements his place among the leading voices of the new generation of blues players. This Blues Music Award-winning guitarist with a soul man’s voice and a well-earned reputation as a mesmerizing live performer delivers fresh, emotion-packed blues informed by the tradition he loves and played with the foot-pounding fervor of a revival tent preacher.

His debut album, *The Right Man*, was released on the Little Village label in 2023 to rave reviews and wildly excited fans. *Rock & Blues Muse* said, “D.K. Harrell raises every roof in town . . . he’s a phenomenon coming across like a lifetime blues master . . . an outstanding singer and guitarist with a big-league presence. Amazing . . . he’s an absolute beast.” His massive, immediate success led him to win the prestigious Blues Music Award for Best Emerging Artist from The Blues Foundation.

### Alexander Craig – Acoustic act between main stage bands

You might not recognize the name, but you’ll remember the sound. He formerly performed over a thousand shows under the alias, Crankshaft & The Gear Grinders.



## Lulu's SATURDAY ONLY AT THE BLUES CAFÉ

### Wraps w/Minted Cranberry Mandarin Slaw

Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$11
Chicken Bacon Ranch	\$11
Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato	\$11
Caprese (vegetarian)	\$11

### Shells

Ancho Chili-Line Chicken	\$4 each
Street Tacos w/simple slaw	3/\$11

### Sweet & Such

Sweet & Salty Munch Mix	\$5
Krispie Rice Squares	\$3
Assorted Chip	\$2



## Wausau Elks Lodge 248 VFW Burns Post 388



### SANDWICHES

**Pulled Pork Sandwich**  
**\$8.00**

**Hamburger**  
**\$6.00**

**Cheeseburger**  
**\$7.00**

### SIDES

Coleslaw Cup.....	\$4.00
Pasta Salad Cup .....	\$5.00
Soup .....	\$6.00
Egg Rolls .....	\$2.00
Tater Tots.....	\$6.00
Loaded Tots.....	\$8.00
Cheese Curds .....	\$6.00
Walking Tacos.....	\$5.00
Pudding Cups .....	\$6.00
Soda .....	\$2.00
Coffee.....	\$3.00