

**Several Local Bands Have CD Release Parties This Month**  
—see pages 10-12 for more info

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"KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE"  
AWARD WINNER  
FOR BLUES ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR  
2003



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## Tracey Fordice & The 8-Balls can get the joint jumping

By Laurie Morrisey

Friendly, outgoing, and a bit crazy were my first impressions upon meeting Tracey Fordice—and I mean that with the utmost respect. Fun times were had by all when Tracey Fordice & The 8-Balls played last month's CBA Membership Meeting. I had to learn more about this gal and her band of merry men.

**Who are the bandmembers and what part do they play in the band?**

Tracey Fordice: Piano, guitar, and vocal

Randy Yearout: Guitars and vocals

Bob Demary: Guitars and vocals

Johnnie Corrie: Drums and vocals

Rudi Spain: Bass and vocals

**How long have you been performing together professionally and individually?**

The current lineup band has been playing together for about 3 months. Prior to this though, Tracey, Randy, Rudi, and Johnnie worked together for the past year in the band NoPoMoJo. And, before Tracey joined NoPoMoJo, Randy, Rudi, and Johnnie were in the band for several years. As a matter of fact, NoPoMoJo is still an active group; we

just limit our shows around town these days. NoPoMoJo is, and always was, a more acoustic, folk/rock and jug band type of project. Tracey Fordice and the 8-Balls takes a straight-ahead and rocking electric approach to our material. A special note: Randy Yearout and Rudi Spain have been playing together in various bands since 1986.

Tracey has been performing professionally since 1969.

Randy Yearout has been performing professionally since 1967.

Bob Demary has been performing professionally since 1983.

Johnnie Corrie started playing drums at the age of 9 and has been performing professionally for over 40 years. You do the math!

**Tracey Fordice & The 8-Balls**



Tracey Fordice & The 8-Balls (Photo by Jim Dorothy)

Rudi Spain: I started playing bass with my dad, the legendary fiddler, Dick "Papa" Spain, when I was around 8 years old. I played professionally for over 25 years until a paralyzed vocal cord put a crimp in my style. I have a silicon implant in my larynx that allows me to speak us-

ing my good vocal cord, but singing is no longer an option for me. I miss it. When that happened, I stopped playing music for 15 years except for a few jobs with my dad. Several years ago I decided to get back into the business of playing music and

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## What's on Tap for May's General Membership Meeting . . .

Melody Ballroom, 615 SE Alder St., Portland  
Wednesday, May 1st, 7:00 pm  
Members always Free ~ Non-members \$3.00  
Opening Acoustic Set ~ Still Water Vibes  
Second Electric Set ~ Tree Top Tribe

The year keeps rolling along and we are more than blessed with such quality musicians on-hand in our region. We continually try to bring some of the best to you to start each month out at our General Membership Meeting. I mean, what a surprise April was!

Lucy Hammond brought in a huge line-up of class A players and knocked our socks off; only to be followed by a stand-out set from Tracey Fordice & The 8-Balls. Well, we're not going to let up now or anytime during the year, so we have yet another great pair of acts for you in May.

"More than meets the eye" is definitely a great way to describe Still Water Vibes who will be playing the opening set. Starting from the front, you'll never guess that those incredible vocals came from Nick Wixom. At first glance he is a young, small, red-headed kid that probably has no business in a band let alone in front of a blues band. But give him 5 minutes and a soulful rendition of a classic BB King tune or a funky original song and he'll sit you down in your chair and have you focused all night. Nick is one step away from becoming a household name in the Willamette Valley. Remember not to let your eyes deceive you, if you see a short red-head take the microphone, you'll be in for a treat.



Still Water Vibes (Press photo)

But the fun doesn't stop at the vocals. One of the most important factors in a good blues band is the lead guitar. Brandon Logan fills that all important role with ease. Great tone and the smarts to know when to go overboard and when to sit back and groove, Brandon's guitar playing is the kind that gives you goose



Tree Top Tribe (Press photo)

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## Tracey Fordice & The 8-Balls

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joined NoPoMoJo as a guitarist, and that has moved forward to me playing bass in Tracey Fordice and the 8-Balls. I still miss singing!

**Did each of you always want to perform professionally or if not, what did you "want to be when you grew up"?**

Tracey: I always did, and I started at an early age of 14 years. There is nothing else I ever wanted to do, and this is what I have always done. It is a deep part of my spirit, which brings harmony into my life and with my audience.

Randy Yearout: My first live performance was in 1964, when some friends of mine and I put together a lip-sync performance of the Beatles hit record, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" for a Cub Scout Pack meeting. We had Beatle wigs, homemade cigar box guitars, a fake bass drum with the Beatle's logo painted on it, and we made girls scream! As they say, the rest is history.

Bob Demary: I've always wanted to be a musician, or king!

Johnnie Corrie: When I was a kid I always loved to hear the local bands playing or practicing in the neighborhood. I remember many summer nights when I'd hear the faint sound of live music drifting through my bedroom window; I'd sneak out and pedal on my bicycle and zero in on that music, park the bike and get as close to the tunes as possible. I love live music and have always wanted to be performing and playing in any capacity possible.

Rudi Spain: I was brought up in a musical environment and so I never really considered anything else!

**Do each of you have day jobs—what are they and how long have you each been doing that—or do you not want to mention this?**

Tracey Fordice: I hold a professional license in Hair Design with the Oregon Board of Cosmetology and have been doing that work for several years. At the moment my work is all about the music, but hair design holds a place in show business, so it will always be my other profession. In addition, I have a full time job taking care of my 6-pound Pomeranian Zoey. She is a hand-ful, literally!

Randy Yearout: Currently, my daytime career as a Manufacturing Engineer with Lumencor, Inc., a rapidly growing hi-tech business in Beaverton, keeps me quite busy. It is a rewarding job, as we design and manufacture LED and LASER powered light engines uniquely designed for the needs of bio analysis in the Life Science industries. My background in engineering prior to this was in audio power amplifier design and manufacturing, specifically for the music and touring industry. I worked for eight years at Carver Professional, a leader and innovator in audio power amplifiers. In addition, I owned and operated my own sound and video production company for six years in Kalispell, Montana prior to moving back to Oregon in 1998.

Bob Demary: Super Lawyer by day, slinky guitarist by night! No joke, Bob is an attorney and works at the law firm of Gevurtz Menashe. He began his career at

Gevurtz Menashe before spending many years on his own. He has recently rejoined the firm, adding his considerable experience to the greater resources of a larger firm. He combines compassion with a sense of humor and aggressive advocacy to help clients through difficult times. He received a Bachelor in Political Science from the University of California and a Juris Doctor from the Northwestern School of Law. Bob handles all of our major record contracts, worldwide tours, contract riders, product endorsements, and tort litigations, as well as keeping the band out of jail. After all, a blues band should always be prepared for just about anything!

Johnnie Corrie: I am a CAD draftsman (computer drafting) and project manager with a local architect here in the Vancouver-Portland area. I have been doing this while playing music since the early 80's.

Rudi Spain: Playing music is great, but a man still needs to make a living, so I have been driving a radio cab for quite a while now.

**Who has influenced your music?**

Tracey: Linda Rondstadt, Joni Mitchell, Carole King, Bonnie Raitt, Etta James, Aretha Franklin, Led Zep, CCR, The Eagles, The Doobie Brothers, Fleetwood Mac, Elton John

Randy Yearout: The Beatles, of course! My blues influences came from exposure to artists such as Johnny Winter, Savoy Brown, John Mayall, Cream, Led Zeppe-lin, The Rolling Stones, and early

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## May Membership

...continued from front page

bumps and has you begging for one more song.

What good are a great singer and an incredible guitar player if they don't have a solid foundation? Jarred Venti on Bass and Brian Wixom on drums fill out the lineup with one of the best young rhythm sections anyone could ask for. With backgrounds in funk and rock and roll, they give Still Water Vibes an edge over the competition. Fans everywhere will certainly agree that if you don't have a tight bottom end and skilled percussion then dancing is nearly impossible. So it's no secret that when they put together the rhythm section they didn't hold back and got some of the most talented young players the area had to offer.

Still Water Vibes doesn't have the look of your traditional blues band, but that's one of the best parts of the band. A great band sounds great when your eyes are closed, when they can take your attention away from the physical and bring out emotions with their music. Still Water Vibes is a great band.

After Still Water Vibes, we will take a short break to conduct our monthly announcements of blues events coming to town as well as having our free ticket drawing for your chance to win CDs, tickets and other fun items. Do not forget to get your drawing ticket at the door when you enter the venue.

For the second half of the night we will feature Tree Top Tribe, who performed for us before for our acoustic set at a meeting. This time, they will be throwing down with a bit of electricity. Led by guitarist Mick Schafer and violinist Tom Esch, with different supporting casts, Tree Top Tribe has been performing locally since 2005. Their album, Blackberry Jam Sessions has gotten local radio airplay and made it to Pandora.

Over the past year, the band got a sizable boost from a new rhythm section, bass player Brian Link and drummer Joe Howard. Brian Link has been a professional musician since high school in Virginia. Introduced to the band through their previous drummer, Matt Ramsdell and it didn't take long before Brian sat in and blew everybody away. Mick and Tom heard Joe How-

ard play for the first time on a really good jazz demo and later Mick heard him live at Coyote's jazz jam. The acid test was putting Joe and Brian together. That sealed it.

Tree Top Tribe's keyboard player is Colin Hogan, who also fronts her own band, the Colin Trio. Here's an interesting story from her feisty-folk.com site: "In January 2006 her demo found its way into the hands of New Orleans legend Dr. John, who was so captivated by her rendition of Bill Withers "Ain't No Sunshine" that he requested that Colin join him onstage during his Hampton, VA show. The impromptu duo sang a memorable rendition of the classic "Makin Whoopee."

Tree Top Tribe is a fine amalgamation of talented musicians. Mick Schafer was once approached by keyboardist Tim Doyle one night at Coyote's and stated, "You guys are really good. Where do you find these amazing young musicians?" Mick told him..... for a non-religious person, he prays a lot. Well you won't need to do any praying at the meeting, but you just might find yourself giving thanks for the great talent we have in town.

Hope to see you all there.

## Tracey Fordice & The 8-Balls

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Fleetwood Mac with Peter Green. These artists turned me on to the real deal though; Willie Dixon, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, BB King, Howlin' Wolf and others. Later, I studied the blues more intimately and learned many other styles. I love folk, and I am heavily into country music styles too (old and classic), and love Willie Nelson, Jerry Jeff Walker, Johnny Cash, Rodney Crowell, Waylon Jennings, and a host of others. Rock influences on the guitar are Carlos Santana, Neil Young, Jimmy Page, Jimi Hendrix, Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton, Albert Lee, just to name a few!

Bob Demary: My cousin who I idolized as a kid. Clapton, Santana, Ford and Carlton.

Johnnie Corrie: John Scofield, a great guitarist, was a senior in my high school when I was just a freshman kid. We'd all go down to the local coffee shop or other gathering places to see his band "Swamp Gas" whenever possible. I must also pay homage to Taj Mahal, Johnny and Edgar Winter, Ginger Baker, Elvin Jones, Tony Williams, Jim Keltner, Billy Cobham and Al Foster, the list goes on and on. And of course currently here in Portland there are many masters including Carlton Jackson, Mel Brown, and Jimi Bott to name just a few that I always try to catch when they're playing.

Rudi Spain: My early influences were the classic western swing and country artists, and of course my father. In addition a great country singer, Jimmy Patton, and my good friend Kraig Hutchins, long-time guitarist for the band Buckboard and later for country star, Collin Raye.

### How would you describe your music?

The original music of Tracey Fordice and the 8-Balls is a combination of songs written individually by Tracey Fordice and Randy Yearout. You could describe our styles as something that crosses from the Blues to the Rock/Pop realm. The important thing is to make the connection through the melody, the rhythm, and the lyrics and capture the audience's attention. Evoking an emotion that drives the urge to get up and dance, or sit down and listen, is what our music does. That is why we like to describe it as Rockin' Blues and Soulful Ballads.

We also play a broad range of covers from major rock and blues artists, both old and new. We especially like to take a great song that is easily recognizable and twist it around into something different that is fun and pleasing to the ear, without destroying the essence of the song. A perfect example is Randy's shuffle arrangement of CCR's song, "Bad Moon Rising".

### Did you have any formal training or self-taught?

Tracey Fordice: Self taught - piano, guitar, and vocalist

Randy Yearout: Self taught - Guitars, bass, piano, mandolin, harmonica, lap-steel, pedal-steel, 5-string banjo, fiddle

Bob Demary: Mel Bay and self taught

Johnnie Corrie: I took early drum lessons before my teen years from an excellent teacher, Jack Berkey in Connecticut. He gave me some very important basic keys to the drums. In the early 80's I also attended P.I.T. (Percussion Institute of Technology) a component of M.I. the Musician's Institute College of Contemporary Music located in Hollywood, CA. to improve my skills in performance and recording. One of my epiphany moments came from an informal lesson or session with the great jazz drummer, Joey Barron. While attending M.I., Joey met with me and a couple of other drum students in a drum set lab. He sat down and took out his drum key, tuned the battered and weary drums and proceeded to teach us how to play "melody" on the drums! Got to see him perform this year at the Portland Jazz Festival and was again treated to a master and great music.

Rudi Spain: Self taught

### What CD's do you have out?

We don't have a CD with this band configuration yet, but we play material from the following two CDs.

Tracey Fordice: The CD *Long Hard Day* was released in 2007 under her former name Tracey Bunch, and is available through iTunes and cdbaby. The CD is a vivid collection of original songs written by Tracey and several collaborations with record producer (and ex husband) Peter Bunch. This album is full of snappy hooks and catchy lyrics, sweetened with Tracey's smooth, soulful voice and piano playing. One song, "Nuclear Winter", is a pop music rocker that was co-written by Peter Bunch and Bob Cowsill of the 60s pop group The Cowsills. To further sweeten the overall sound of the CD, Tracey brought in Grammy Award winning engineer, Dean Baskerville (Soak Up The Sun by Cheryl Crow).

Tracey also released a single in the 80s called "Needing a Night Like This" which was recorded at Leon Russell's studio Paradise Studios in Hendersonville, Nashville. It made it up to #8 on the regional charts.

Randy Yearout: In 2011, Randy released a collection of his own tunes (and one written by Rudi's dad, Papa Spain) with his other band, NoPoMoJo on Deer Lodge Records. The CD is called *Fallen Angels*, and is also available through iTunes and cdbaby. It was recorded at the Deer Lodge Recording Studio and Bar in S.E. Portland, owned and operated by

Ezra Meredith. The CD is full of witty and catchy songs in a variety of musical styles that cross the roots and boundaries of blues, folk, gypsy-jazz, rock, and country.

### Any more CD's in the works?

Yes, Tracey plans to re-release *Long Hard Day* under her previous name, Tracey Fordice.

Tracey and Randy are feverishly working on new songs in a collaborative effort for a new Tracey Fordice and the 8-Balls CD that we hope to complete this year. We already have four great songs written, and we are currently including a couple of them in our live shows.

In addition, we have been invited by Lucy Hammond to be a part of her musical compilation project, NW Roots Uprising. We have a great Tracey Fordice song that we plan to record with her called, "You Left Me Alone Too Long".

### Who have you played with?

Tracey Fordice: Delta Haze, Swingline Cubs, Bullet, Boomerang (Pop music with Chris Allen, brother of world famous entertainer Peter Allen), and NoPoMoJo

Randy Yearout: Higher Ground, Sundance, NoPoMoJo, Suburban Slim, The Astro Vans' Astro Security Services (A.S.S.), NIGHTLIFE: A Tribute to Willie Nelson, Margo Tufo, The StrangeTones, The Reverb Brothers, The Meredith Brothers Band, The Chancers

Bob Demary: Woodrow, Nobody's Bizness, No Alibi, Ms. Demeanor, Steve Kerin, Stani Nabaldski

Johnnie Corrie: Since relocating to Portland from California in 1991, I performed with several groups and vocalists including: Gary Small and the Deacons, NoPoMoJo, Suburban Slim, Dover Weinberg Quartet, Margo Tufo, Karen Maria Capo, The Chancers, The Fenix Project and substituted for many great bands and performers, and I'm currently with Tracey Fordice & the 8-Balls.

Rudi Spain: Buckboard, Sundance, The Tom Miles Band, Rockin' Horse, NoPoMoJo

### Any other comments:

Tracey Fordice: I'm so happy to be back in the business of playing and recording music with Randy Yearout and these other great players, and of having my original name and identity back. This band is so much fun and we have so much to look forward to. This is going to be a great year for us here in Portland and we can't wait to get out on the stages and in the clubs making music and new friends!

Randy Yearout: Tracey and I have formed the musical bond that we have both been searching for throughout our entire careers in this wacky business, and now that we have it, we intend on making the most of it. We present a powerful songwriting and performing duo that is sure to capture attention every time we step on stage! When we are immersed in the middle of this great band, the collective results are more than the individual parts could ever dream to be!

Besides playing in the band, Tracey and Randy are also performing as a duo (piano and guitar). Look for us at the new club on SE 67th and Sandy, the Starday Tavern, and every Tuesday at The Lehrer Pub and Eatery (8775 SW Canyon Lane) where we are hosting Singer/Songwriter Nights from 7pm to 10pm. We feature great local singer/songwriters, and on the last Tuesday of the month it's Tracey and the Ladies of the Lehrer, featuring some of Portland's best women in the Blues.

Check out their website [www.traceyfordice.com](http://www.traceyfordice.com) (it's under construction but should be up and running soon.) They also have a Facebook page: Tracey Fordice and the 8-Balls. The band business contact is: Randy Yearout at 971-998-8227 or [homerandje-throtull@gmail.com](mailto:homerandje-throtull@gmail.com).

## 2013 Journey To Memphis Competition Is Set

The 2013 Cascade Blues Association Journey To Memphis competition is set to be held on Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th at The Trails End Saloon in Oregon City. Fourteen entries this year will vie to see who will advance to the finals at the Waterfront Blues Festival and then eventually on to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN in late January 2014.

This year's entries are: The Alan Benson Experience, Alan Hager & Dave Fleschner, The Beacon Street Titans, The Ben Rice Band, Chad Rupp & Josh Makosky, David Pinsky & Phil Newton, The Hitmen, Howard Wade, Lisa Mann & Her Really Good Band, The Mojoblasters, Rae Gordon & Gaddis Cavenah, the Rae Gordon Band, The Rose City Rats featuring Samantha Coen, and Tevis Hodge Jr. Though we do not prevent acts from participating in both solo/duo and band entries, they may only advance in one category should they be selected to move on by our judges.

Seven acts will perform each night, playing 30-minute sets before three judges, beginning at 8:00 pm. Admission is \$10 each night, which will help build the prize money to off-set traveling expenses to Memphis. The Trails End is located at 1320 Main Street, Oregon City. Come out and support our next representatives heading to the International Blues Challenge.