

Cape Fear Blues Society

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Cape Fear Blues Festival Celebrates 15th Birthday!

Wilmington NC – The **Cape Fear Blues Festival** proudly announces its schedule and artist roster in celebration of its fifteenth birthday, **July 23-25**, in **Wilmington, North Carolina**. Attendees can look forward to many of the tried-and-true events that have stood the test of time to make this Festival a regular stop for vacationers, musicians, listeners and locals alike since 1996.

- The **Cape Fear Blues Cruise** will commence at 7:30 pm on opening day (Friday, July 23) for another blues-filled, 2-hour excursion along the historic Cape Fear River. Ticket-holders will enjoy blues music on the dock, entertainment on 3 decks, cash bar, and a delicious buffet on-board the Port City's beautiful Henrietta III riverboat. Ticket info at www.capefearblues.org.
- This year's **Cape Fear Blues Festival Concert** moves back to Legion Stadium under the 'big top' tent and welcomes five different blues acts from Noon until 6:00 pm on Saturday, July 24. Count on convenience at this venue: free parking, food & beverage concessions, vendors, restrooms, and kid's games. Lawn chairs and blankets are welcome. Ticket info at www.capefearblues.org.
- The **All-Day Blues Jam** on Sunday, July 25 at Noon offers a performance opportunity to local musicians that few (if any) festivals can boast of. It's a chance to play on the Festival main stage (under the tent at Legion Stadium) and show their appreciation for the music they love. This event will culminate with the **Guitar Giveaway** at 6:00 pm, when one lucky entrant will go home with a Squier (by Fender) Vintage Modified Telecaster Thinline guitar. Raffle ticket info at www.capefearblues.org.

- The **Downtown Blues Workshop** at Finkelstein Music (Saturday, July 24 @ 11:00 am) will feature blues performers weaving tales by way of their favorite blues tunes. It's a free event that appeals to young and old blues listeners and is situated on the sales floor of Wilmington's oldest (since 1906) music retailer. Info at 910-762-5662.
- Wilmington's favorite juke joint, The Rusty Nail, will host **Blues Parties** on both Friday and Saturday nights of Festival weekend. This venerable location is home to weekly Cape Fear Blues Jams year-round, and is a hub for Festival artists and listeners after the day's big events. Call the venue at 910-251-1888 for ticket info.

Schedule of Artists, Venues & Events

Friday, July 23

7:30 pm - Cape Fear Blues Cruise / Henrietta III: Music on the dock at 5:00 pm with **Spider Mike Bochey**. 2-hour cruise will feature **Bill 'Sauce Boss' Wharton & Band**, **Dusty Long & Friends**, plus acoustic blues from **Rick Tobey**.

9:00 pm – Blues Party / The Rusty Nail: **The Dynamic Therm-O-Tones** entertain with their butt-shakin' blues and R&B for an all-night celebration!

Saturday, July 24

11:00 am – Blues Workshop / Finkelstein Music: **Theresa Blue** performs her unique blend of blues, folk and Americana on the showroom floor of Wilmington's favorite music store. Free!

Noon – Festival Concert / Legion Stadium: Gates open for the Festival Concert with **Mac Arnold & Plate Full 'O Blues**, **Jen & Tonic**, **Tampa Blue**, the **Cape Fear Blues Jam Band**, and **Blind Lemon Pledge**.

9:00 pm – Blues Party / The Rusty Nail: **Ten Dollar Thrill** perform their trademark foot-stompin', retro-Blues for a crowd of listeners and musicians inside Wilmington's favorite juke joint.

Sunday, July 25

Noon – All-Day Blues Jam / Legion Stadium: Enjoy an afternoon of blues with the region's finest musicians at this free event. **Guitar Giveaway** at 6:00 pm. Raffle tickets at The Rusty Nail and Finkelstein Music. Musicians must reserve a performance slot by calling 910-383-1247.

Information for all Cape Fear Blues Festival events will be available at www.capefearblues.org. The Cape Fear Blues Society can be reached at 910-350-8822.

(Questions regarding this press release should be directed to Lan Nichols at 910-620-5625 or send an email to l.m.nichols@earthlink.net)