



Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania
<http://www.bscpblues.org>

April - June 2017

BLUES NEWS

From your President...

The BSCP has the following upcoming BSCP Events scheduled for this year:

We are having a show Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 at Champions. Slam Allen, former band leader for James Cotton will be our headliner. Opening will be the Nate Myers Trio. It's going to be a good show. Our annual Treasurer's Picnic is set for Sunday, May 28th, 2017 to be held at the Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds. This new venue will be a huge improvement over the Shellsville VFW. Rocky has worked hard to get the line-up set, and it promises to be a good time. This venue is a lot larger than our previous places and we will need volunteers on Saturday 5/27 and Sunday 5/28. Be a good event for new folk to get their sea legs.



Dauphin County's Music and Wine Festival be held Saturday and Sunday June 10th & 11th 2017 at Fort Hunter north of Harrisburg. BSCP has partnered with the county in the selection of entertainment for Saturday, and once again the county has come through. Main stage acts will be, Don Johnson Project, Vanessa Collier Band, and Devon Allman.

Our annual Mississippi Railroad picnic is set for Sunday, July 16, 2017, 2:00 pm at the Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds. Mark "Muleman" Massey will be performing his authentic Mississippi blues. This is a show that you just can't see anywhere. Don't miss it.

So how are things in the world of the BSCP? From my perspective, room for a whole lot of improvement. We are still plagued by the problem of getting more members involved. It's not lack of members. Our membership list is probably the highest it has ever been. We have got to have some new blood step up and take over this organization. Our jam has been declining since fall, both audience and performers. This is a non-profit, all volunteer organization. Remember. Everything is in the context of the music. If you are not happy with something at the jam, talk to the jam host. Communication, not drama. BSCP is not a competitive enterprise. We do not want to be in competition with other jams, although there are plenty of jams and open mics around. We do think we have the best jam around, but maybe this is not what people want anymore. For BSCP to continue, we've got to have more involvement from our membership. Support our shows and our jam. These shows and events and jams don't just happen. It takes a lot of work on the part of people who get nothing more than the satisfaction of promoting the Blues. So, this is the call. People willing and able to help, let me or any BSCP board member know. We are easy to find.

- Buster



BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Blues Society of Central Pa is proud to present

Slam Allen

Sunday April 2nd

at: Champions Sports Bar & Grill
 time: doors open 1 pm
 starts at 2 pm
 cost: \$15 at the door
 with special guests

The Nate Myers Trio

Champions Sports Bar & Grill
 300 2nd. St.
 Highspire, Pa. 17034

www.bscpblues.org

Blues Society of Central Pa

BSCP Proudly Presents
Harrison "Slam" Allen
By Andy Kehe

Lend an ear to the sounds of Harrison "Slam" Allen and his band and you might hear a little Otis Redding, a little Albert Collins, a little Freddie King, a little James Cotton, a little of any number of iconic blues and soul artists. And penetrating through it all are a lot of the unique sounds of Slam Allen himself. The eclectic approach comprises Allen's platform as the "Ambassador of the Blues," and on April 2, Allen will unleash his diplomacy at Champions Sports Bar & Grill in Highspire.

The show, hosted by the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania, begins at 2 p.m. with an opening set by the Nate Myers Trio. Admission is \$15 at the door. "Since I was a little boy, I was around the music," Allen told Blues Blast Magazine. "It's something that's just a part of me. It's who I am. I'm not trying to be anybody else. It's a part of me. I feel that title of Ambassador of the Blues is just taking what the masters started and bringing it to a younger generation, making them feel what the original people started – you know – put out." All those influences are reflected on "Feels These Blues," Allen's third album since parting ways with James Cotton, for whom he served as singer, band leader and guitarist for 9-plus years. There's one more obvious influence on the album - that of Prince in Allen's rendition of "Purple Rain," the only cover on the album and a show stopping feature of his live performances since long before Prince's passing.

"Feel These Blues" has earned for Allen "Master Blues Artist" recognition from the New York Blues Hall of Fame, a 2016 Blues Music Award nomination for best new artist recording, and a 2015 Blues Blast nominee for best soul blues album. The album features Allen's guitar and vocals with John Ginty on keys, Jeff Anderson on bass and Dan Fadel on drums.

Allen, a Hudson Valley New York native who cut his teeth as a soul blues performer in Chicago after first touring with his brothers as a drummer in the Allen Brothers Band, gained notoriety and maturity as a blues/soul artist during his nine-year stint with the James Cotton Band. While working with Cotton, Allen sang and wrote on portions of Cotton's Grammy nominated album "Giant." Allen's connection with the greats of blues extends further considering that Cotton played harp in the 1960s for Muddy Waters, an icon in the blues genre. "For me, I've heard a lot of harp players, and there's a very select few that can actually play with that soul where they can take one note and have you feel that one note, and you can feel all that history," Allen told the New York Times in 2005. "You can feel all the soul and sacrifice and everything that he went through. You can feel it coming out of the harp. It changed my whole life."

For more on Slam Allen, go to his website: <https://slamallen.com>.

Commissioners:
Jeff Haste | Mike Pries | George P. Hartwick, III



June 10 - 11, 2017
4:00 - 9:00 pm

Weekend Passes:
\$30 in advance
\$40 at the door

Fort Hunter Park
Harrisburg, PA

2017 DAUPHIN COUNTY MUSIC AND WINE FESTIVAL

As of the March 12, submission deadline for the April BSCP Newsletter, the Dauphin Music & Wine Festival had not yet announced who its main stage performers will be for the June 10-11 event at the Ft. Hunter Mansion in Harrisburg.

When it becomes available, the BSCP will post the lineup on its website (bscpblues.org).

2 stages, 4 National Acts, 12 bands
Wine Tastings by the Hershey Harrisburg Wine Country



Devon Allman Band
Vanessa Collier
Don Johnson Project
Buzzard Luck
Menendez Brothers
Ben Brandt Trio
We Are One Tribute Band
Gerardo Contino y Los
Habaneros
Rita & Class Act
Passionettes
And More!

Each year, the BSCP makes main stage talent recommendations to the festival organizers, and also determines the side stage (Corn Crib Stage) performers. Featured this year on the Corn Crib Stage on June 11 will be Buzzard Luck at 4 p.m., Menendez Brothers at 5:30 p.m. and the Ben Brandt Trio at 7 p.m.

The two-day event opens at 3 p.m. each day. Weekend passes are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door.



More information and tickets
available online at
www.DauphinCounty.org

For more information, go to Dauphin County's website: <http://www.dauphincounty.org>.

Roger Hammer Music
Originals and Blues
www.rogerhammer.com



April 29, Wetlands Festival at Wildwood Lake, Olewine Nature Center, Harrisburg, starting at 10:00am.
FREE! Wildlife exhibits, displays, used nature book sale, meet local and regional environmental organizations. There is something for everyone. Activities and programs are designed for families, children and adults.
www.wildwoodlake.org/events/

May 28, BSCP Annual Picnic, Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds
Always a great time. Members are free! Not a member? Join for a mere pic of Alexander Hamilton. We will be bringing both traditional blues and new blues to the party.
www.bscpblues.org

June 23, 8:30-11:30 Holly Inn
31 So. Baltimore Avenue, Mt. Holly Springs, PA
Historic venue with great food and atmosphere, looking forward to seeing you there Friday!

July 21, 7:00-10:00 MoMo's
307 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA
Award Winning BBQ
Come on down to MoMo's for some BBQ, and a nice selection of brews.



Acoustic Stew Gig Schedule

Friday, May 19	Etters VFW 8 - midnight 1095 Pines Road, Etters, PA ettersvfw.com/vfwhome/
Saturday, May 20	Champions Sports Bar Deck 7 - 10 pm Highspire, PA championssportsbar.net
Sunday, May 28	BSCP Treasurer's Picnic 1 pm Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds Glendale Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA www.bscpblues.org
Sunday, June 25	Dauphin County Swine & Dine 3 - 4 pm Fort Hunter Park, Harrisburg, PA www.dauphincounty.org
Saturday, July 15	Champions Sports Bar Deck 7 - 10 pm Highspire, PA championssportsbar.net

Lifting Little Lives

Presents

Music
Free Food
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and more!

2ND
ANNUAL

BLUES NIGHT

AT THE LEWISBURG HOTEL

All Ages - \$10.00 Donation

APRIL 1st 4p.m. until 10 p.m.

Proceeds benefit ill and disabled
children in our community

www.LiftingLittleLives.org

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CABE STILLMAN
AND THE BILLTOWN GIANTS

AND SPECIAL GUEST THE BECKY BLUE BAND

LISTENING LATELY TO THE ELVIN BISHOP BAND

by Greg Hogg

Well friends, it's BSCP newsletter time so I'll share with you a bit about my recent enjoyment of Elvin Bishop Band's music.



Elvin Richard Bishop was born in California on October 21, 1942. After moving to Iowa and to Tulsa, Oklahoma as a child he grew up there. After graduating from Will Rogers High School, Elvin moved to attend the University of Chicago on a full ride National Merit Scholarship to study Physics. While in Chicago he met harmonica player Paul Butterfield and joined his band as guitarist. During this time Elvin picked up his nickname, Pigboy Crabshaw. After 5 years with the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, Elvin began the Elvin Bishop Band in 1968. Think about it...49 years and still going strong!

Elvin performs on a Gibson ES 345 guitar which he calls "Red Dog" and he is generally seen wearing his wild mop of hair, a checkered flannel shirt and bib overalls. He speaks and sings in a distinct Oklahoman accent. Among his best known songs are: "Fooled Around And Fell In Live" w/ Jefferson Starship vocalist, Mickey Thomas, "Struttin' My Stuff". "Rock My Soul", "Stealin' Watermelons". "Travelin' Shoes", "Party 'Til The Cows Come Home". "Can't Even Do Wrong Right" and my favorite "Juke Joint Jump".

Elvin's headlining blues band includes Ed Earley on Trombone/Vocals/Percussion, Bob Welsh on Guitar/Piano, Ruth Davies on Upright Bass, S.E. Willis on Piano/Accordion/Vocals and Bobby Cochran on Drums/Vocals.

Through the wonders of the internet, and Youtube videographer westonjeff's generous sharing of his talents, I've been repeatedly listening to and watching the 4 part videos of Elvin Bishop@Big Bull Falls Blues Fest 2016. This festival was last August in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Here are the YouTube links to these videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaaMTo22k8E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LX2NnvWPtRM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jWwmY2FRh8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32swGgQj7qQ>

Elvin Bishop has released 28 albums over his 49 year solo career and any one or more of these would be nice addition to you music library or play list.

As wonderful as YouTube videos, Spotify, Pandora, iTunes, etc. are, there is still no better way to enjoy music than a live experience. Springtime, daylights saving time and warmth of summer and autumn offer lots of opportunities to get out of the house and see a show. Support our local/regional musicians as they gig, catch some concerts at local parks and wineries, attend a blues festival, join me for the BSCP picnics, groove to the live music and meet some new friends!



2017 BSCP Treasurer's Picnic

By Andy Kehe

The Treasurer's Picnic is upping its game while still keeping the winning formula of lots of great music along with all you can eat barbecue and all the beer, soda and water you can drink, all for one low price.

Having said goodbye to the cramped Shellsville grounds in Grantville, the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania has partnered with the Mechanicsburg Club to use its spacious Picnic Grounds and kitchen for this year's BSCP Treasurer's Picnic on May 28. Music gets under way at 12:30 p.m. The last performers take the stage at approximately 6:45 p.m. Price of admission as always is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

The grounds feature clear site lines to the stage from its open air and shaded areas and from three pavilions that together can accommodate around 800 patrons. A large nearby field accommodates about 2,000 vehicles and bathrooms for both men and women are clean and spacious. The BSCP will also use the Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds for the Mississippi Railroad event on July 16.

Some familiar faces at our Treasurer's Picnic will provide the entertainment, including Acoustic Stew, the Don Johnson Project, Buzzard Luck, the Ben Brandt Trio and Nate Myers & The Aces on the main stage. The newcomer to the mainstage lineup is Out Of The Blue, which features a few frequent performers at the regular Thursday Jam at Champions.

Performing between main stage sets on the Acoustic Stage will be Keith Kailian, Roger Hammer with JD (John Drudul), and Tomm Dunn. A fourth act could be added. Their sets this year will be 30 minutes each.

Here is the entertainment schedule for this year:

Acoustic Stage

12:30-1:00: Keith Kailian

1:45-2:15: Don Judy

4:00-4:30: Roger Hammer and JD

5:15-5:45: Tomm Dunn

Main Stage

1:00-1:45: Acoustic Stew

2:15-3:00: Don Johnson Project

3:15-4:00 Ben Brandt Trio

4:30-5:15: Buzzard Luck

5:45-6:30: Out of the Blue

6:45-7:30: Nate Myers & The Aces

Here's a little bit about some of the performers:

NATE MYERS & THE ACES

Possibly one of the busiest and most popular bands in the region, [Nate Myers & The Aces](#), led by vocalist Nate Myers and his harmonica, creates a loose, casual atmosphere in which everyone can relax and have a good time. On a typical evening, audiences can hear influences from many forms of American music - blues, funk, hip hop, rockabilly, country and improvisation. Nate Myers has been billed with and on occasion, shared the stage with many national and regional artists such as Kansas, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, G Love & Special Sauce, Johnny Winter, Edgar Winter, Rick Derringer,

Leslie West/Mountain, Kim Simmonds/Savoy Brown, Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, Big Jack Johnson, Jason Ricci, E.G. Kight, The Nighthawks, Robin Trower, Rod Piazza, Luther Allison, E.C. Scott, Chris Thomas King, Michael Burks, Paul Rishell & Little.

BUZZARD LUCK

[Buzzard Luck](#) is a York, Pa. based trio creating its own take on blues rock it calls Blues n' Roll. Each member brings their own influences to the band, combining blues, rockabilly and folk to create their own sound. Influenced by both American and British Blues, the band adds its own twist to the guitar-driven sound of greats such as Rory Gallagher, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, Freddie King, Johnny Winter, Peter Green to name but a few. The band comprises young yet seasoned musicians, with a passion and talent for bringing the blues to a modern audience.

ACOUSTIC STEW

[Acoustic Stew](#) is a band with very old roots. Made up of four players with many years experience in a variety of styles, playing everything from roots blues to contemporary light rock. Born in the jam sessions sponsored by the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania, Acoustic Stew brings a unique voice and sweet sound to the local music scene. Our play list includes roots blues and blues standards as well as a mixture of folk rock, ballads and just plain good stuff.

DON JOHNSON PROJECT

Another popular destination point to wherever he's playing in the area, [Don Johnson Project](#) delivers clean, decadent soul/blues sounds that demand you sit back, close your eyes and soak it all in, which is not to say that you can't groove on the dance floor to his music. Johnson sometimes opens for bigger name artists, but often it is he who folks are coming to see. Moreover, perhaps no one in the area has performed a more soulful version of Prince's Purple Rain.

OUT OF THE BLUE

[Out of the Blue](#) is a blues rock band comprised of talented, seasoned musicians who are longtime friends. Its music is primarily blues based, with the occasional jaunt into well known classic songs.

BEN BRANDT

For a number of years, [Ben Brandt](#) has delivered an edgy, hard driving brand of blues to the Thursday night jam at Champions and to dozens of venues all over the Harrisburg region.

ROGER HAMMER

Since teaming together, [Roger Hammer](#) and JD, both regulars at the Thursday jam, have attracted a nice following in recent years playing at local venues a combination of covers and original takes written by Hammer based on popular enduring blues standards that have stood the test of time.

The BSCP and its weekly Thursday night jam sessions made the March issue of “**The Burg**”! Writer Kait Gibboney did a really nice job!

To read this article, go to their website:

<https://theburgnews.com/culture/blues-society-central-pa-weekly-improv-jams-highspire>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from our President	1
BSCP Board of Directors	2
Slam Allen Article	3
Music and Wine Festival	4
Roger Hammer	4
Acoustic Stew	5
Ann Kerstetter Poster	6
Elvin Bishop Article	7-8
Treasurers Picnic	9-10