



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

October-December 2016

BLUES NEWS

From your President...

Ah, fall. or, here in PA, almost winter. Just like not having a real spring, we don't seem to have a real fall. Just my observation. Anyway, we made it through summer. Lots of music and festivals.

BSCP has been a bit more active with shows and events. The Mississippi Railroad Picnic, with Lightnin' Malcolm, was, in my opinion, a great success. We are partnering with River City Blues Club to bring Southern Avenue in September. This happens to fall on the same date as the Pennsylvania Blues Festival, but it will provide some blues locally for those of us not going to the Poconos. We are also doing a show at Champions in October with the Carolyn Kelly Band from Syracuse, NY with Don Johnson Trio opening. Should be a great show. And... don't forget the BSCP Christmas party December 4, at the Hummelstown Fire Co. This year, we are having Johnny Rawls. This will be an excellent show. So, plan ahead. Free to members and you can re-up at the door.



So, this being the last newsletter of the year, it's time to thank all the folks who have so selflessly pitched in to help keep BSCP running. Our Board of Directors; without their tireless efforts, we would exist. Remember, we are all volunteers. The only thing we get out of this is the enjoyment and satisfaction of trying to keep the blues alive. Thanks to everyone who pitches in when needed, who help set up and tear down weekly at the jam, who help set up and tear down at the shows, who cook and clean up at the picnics and parties. You are all appreciated.

Lastly, we will be having our elections of president, vice president, and secretary at the Christmas party. If you want to run, please let any board member know. Last year, we had a default slate because nobody stepped up. If you are satisfied with the status quo, that's probably what will happen again.

- Buster



BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Buster Grubb

Vice President: Bob Hodgson

Secretary: Andy Kehe

Treasurer: Gary "Rocky" Rothrock – (Chair, Jam Committee and Bylaws Committee)

Dot Grubb – Chair, Membership Committee

Nina Vacante – Chair, Newsletter Committee, and Webmaster

Greg Hogg – Chair, IBC Committee

Betty Fenicle – Chair, Merchandise Committee

Mike Knott – Chair, Events and Public Relations Committees

Virginia "Mom" Ivanoff – Member-at-Large

Hannah Sherman – Member-at-Large

Sherman Smith – Member-at-Large

Rocky Woodling – Member-at-Large



EAST PETERSBURG GYPSY MOON BLUES FESTIVAL RECAP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

by Greg Hogg

What better way to wrap up the unofficial “last Saturday of summer” than a free blues festival in a local community park. About 30, BSCP members made the little road trip to find that there is no better way!

For the 7th year running the Borough of East Petersburg, PA has treated us to their Gypsy Moon Blues Festival. The first six years this festival was held in early October but the weatherman never cooperated very well with their autumn plans. For 2016 this was moved ahead to Labor Day Weekend and we were blessed with sunny skies with beautiful passing clouds, temperatures in the 70 – 80 degree range and refreshing breeze.

Held in the East Petersburg Community Park with ample parking nearby, a nice festival stage and sound system are strategically set up to maximize the sight and sound of the featured entertainers.

At 3:00 PM master of ceremony and festival booking agent, Randy Bucksner welcomed the growing audience and introduced Lancaster based, Blues on the Loose. Lewis, John, Woody and Doug set the mood of the day with 40 minutes of better known blues tunes and the audience was diggin’ it!

Our Central PA based friends, Wake Up Call sizzled the stage with their big sound. Three lead singers to share the songs on the set list and horn section additions make this band a “must see” recommendation from me! J.J., Mike, Ken, Tom, Robin and Randy... great job!

As 5:00 PM brought more music loving folks into the park, Nate Myers & the Aces kept the party going. Nate, as always, charmed the audience and he and the band got some dancers going with their “Backyard Swing”. These guys are certainly road warriors as they seem to keep very busy both locally and regionally.

Philadelphia’s WXPB awarded Laura Cheadle and the Family Band thrilled the festival with her lovely youthful stage presence, her strong bluesy voice and the band’s polished delivery of a mixture of original and cover songs. Laura also honored my friend, Gypsy Nance, singing to celebrate her birthday. Lots of dancers gathered to the left front of the stage. The Family Band is truly family. Laura’s lead guitarist is her brother JimLee, her keyboard player/left handed bass is her father, J.S. Cheadle and she introduced the drummer as her uncle. This was this band’s Central PA debut and we’re hoping to see more of them!

Headlining the Gypsy Moon Festival were the Balkun Brothers from Hartford, Connecticut. These two brothers performed in East Petersburg at the festival several years ago and their popularity and hard work since brought them back this year to close the day. Steve Balkun plays guitars and vocal and his brother Nick Balkun spans the drums and vocals. You might not generally think of a duo act being dynamic. You’d be wrong! These guys are “over the top” high energy and have a “big” sound. Their stage presence and fashion style are also quite flamboyant.

Wrapping up every East Petersburg Gypsy Moon Blues Festival is a blues jam of the various performers of the day. The BSCP has proudly been among the co-sponsors of this excellent local festival for all 7 years and we are acknowledged both in stage announcement and on a stage banner as such.

Watch for the announcement of next summer’s festival. It’s well worth the drive! Thank you, Mayor Geoghan and the fine people of East Petersburg, PA.





BSCP PRESENTS

CAROLYN KELLY

by Andy Kehe

Blues lovers in the Harrisburg region are about to find out what blues lovers in upstate New York have known for more than 40 years.

Carolyn Kelly can sing the blues. Really sing the blues. On Oct. 2, Kelly and her bandmates, who together comprise the Carolyn Kelly Blues Band, will perform tunes from her 2012 release "Somebody Told Me" and two other CDs, plus a variety of new tunes at Champions Sports Bar & Grill in Highspire.

The show, presented by the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania, also features local favorite Don Johnson and the Don Johnson Trio.

Showtime is 2 p.m. Admission is \$12. Blues Society of Pennsylvania members will be charged \$10. Memberships to the Blues Society will be sold at the door for \$10.

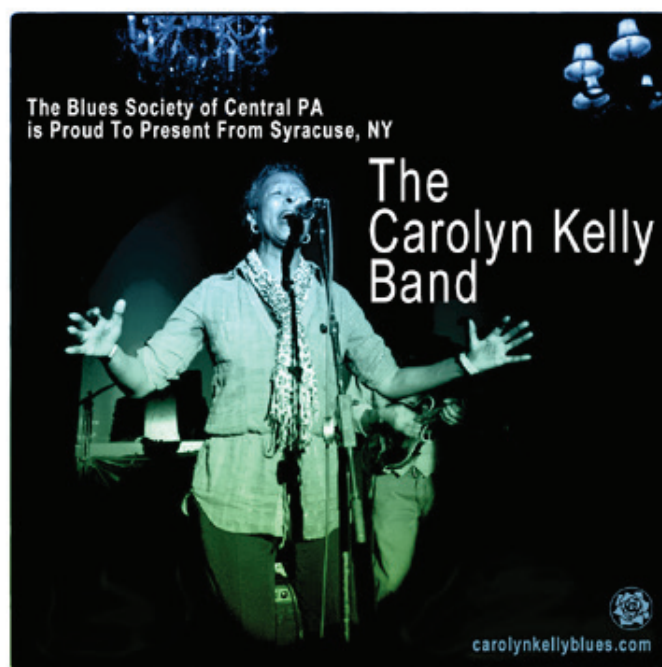
Born in South Carolina but raised in Philadelphia, Kelly arrived in Syracuse in 1968 after having already built a foundation for the blues by singing gospel solos. She joined up with another Syracuse favorite Roosevelt Dean, but along her journey she steered away from music and embarked on a different calling - serving Alzheimer and dementia patients as a certified nursing assistant.

But back to music and Dean she came in 2006 and they produced two CDs together, the second one "Slow Cooking on Hot" earned for both of them a Sammy (Syracuse Area Music Award). Dean passed in 2009 and Kelly has pressed on with her own band and developing her own style.

"My music is real blues," Kelly told Russ Tarby of Eagle News Online back in 2008. "I can feel my own experiences in life with the blues. And if my voice can reach someone, touch somebody and make them happy, then it's all worth it."

Joining Kelly are Don Sollars on drums, Todd Fitzsimmons and or Terry Mulhauser on guitar and Jim Pavante on bass. Together, the band produces a rich, foot-stomping, unmistakable blues groove that is a natural complement to Kelly's soulful, often powerful, energetic delivery.

Examples of the band's music can be found on YouTube, and on the Web at www.Carolynkellyblues.com.



Carlos Elliot Jr. / Colombia Comes to Columbia

Saturday, October 22, 2016
from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
(EDT)

40 N 3rd St

Second Floor Groove Room
Columbia, PA 17512



Roger Hammer Music

Saturday Oct. 15, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Fall Furnace Fest 2016



Pine Grove Furnace State Park
1100 Pine Grove Rd
Gardners, PA 17324
717-486-7174
pinegrovesp@pa.gov
www.visitPAparks.com





In the Spot Light...

GARY HARRINGTON



Take a backseat on a magic carpet ride piloted by blues jam regular Gary Harrington and you're likely in for a bumpy journey.

If the past is any indication, there'll be more wrong turns than right ones, more screeching halts than green lights, more crash and burns than minor scrapes.

But on and on you'll ride, always making an enjoyable rest stop at the Thursday night jam at Champions Sports Bar & Grill in Highspire.

"I've been through a lot of stuff," says the prolific song writer and jack of all instruments, understating the tough sledding that's shaped his character and his music. "I've been spinning my wheels for a while now. I'm kind of licking my wounds."

Unmistakingly, what he's earned from it all is a "license to play the blues."

And it's at Champions and other venues in the region that Harrington invokes that license.

"Gary is one of the most talented musicians that I ever met," said Gary Rothrock, like Harrington a regular Jam set leader. "He has a natural talent for music that enables him to play many instruments well, from guitar to keyboards to bass to drums to harmonica and more."



The Thursday night Jam is Harrington's sanctuary.

In his early 60s, while still looking for the right woman, still searching for a way to sustain his music teaching business, still battling to regain his radio voice robbed, he says, by strep throat, still seeking an acceptable living arrangement, still battling what he says are racial prejudices that have stymied his ability to sustain a band of his own, Harrington has the jam.

"Like tonight, I'm standing in line to sign up and there's three guys there waiting to shake my hand," he said at a recent Thursday jam, hosted by the Blues Society of Central PA, which Harrington played a large part in creating. "That's why I come here. That's as important to me as anything. I've been doing this for close to 20 years. I really look forward to this."

It is on Thursday night when Harrington can truly express and live life. Even at a jam, where predictable, well known 12-bar solos and rhythm progressions are a necessary evil in order to draw in players and negate, somewhat, unfamiliarity among musicians, there's room for individual expression.

No one pushes that envelope more than Harrington.

"But I know how far to push it," he said. "It's art, it's in the moment, it's now. I see guys get up there who have a list of songs. I have no clue what I'm gonna do when I get up there. I get up on stage and see who I'm up there with and go, OK, you can pull this off."

Rothrock has found himself up on stage following Harrington's lead on a number of occasions, or trying to.

"I think Gary sometimes takes a very avant-garde approach to music at the jam because he gets a little bored playing with us mere mortals," Rothrock said.

More likely that he just wants to sound like Gary Harrington and nobody else before him or after. If that means dropping the Star Spangled Banner into the middle of a tune, so be it.

"I try to play what I would like to hear. Not what I heard somebody else play," he says. "People who first played the blues, they couldn't even write their own name. They tuned their instruments to whatever they wanted. Lightning Hopkins, Howling Wolf - they changed when they wanted to change, sometimes they play 11 bars. Sometimes they'd play 15."





“Anyway, it’s not about the guitar solo, it’s about the story.”
Harrington is still writing his saga. Happy ending or not, someday it’ll ring out
at a jam in a 12-bar blues.
Or maybe 11 bars. Maybe 15.
Maybe none of the above.





BSCP Proudly Sponsors
Ruthie Foster
 at ABC in Harrisburg
by Andy Kehe

The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania is proud to be a sponsor of The Susquehanna Folk Music Society's presentation of multi Blues Music Awards winning artist Ruthie Foster, at 7:30 pm on Oct. 16 at the Appalachian Brewing Company in Harrisburg.

Outside of her 2010, 2012 and 2014 Grammy nominations, Foster has been recognized by organizations such as the Austin Music Awards (2007, 2008 and 2013 Best Female Vocalist), Blues Music

Awards (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013), Living Blues Awards (2010 Critics' Poll Winner and 2011 nominee for Blues Female Artist of the Year).

She has collaborated on stage with artists ranging from Bonnie Raitt to The Allman Brothers to Susan Tedeschi.

Admission is \$24, but BSCP members will be admitted for \$21. For more information, go to http://abcbrew.com/events/?event_id1=187.

Ruthie's career also reaches beyond her own releases and performances. She has collaborated on stage with artists ranging from Bonnie Raitt to The Allman Brothers to Susan Tedeschi, and has recorded tracks with Warren Haynes, Big Head Todd, and The Blind Boys of Alabama, among others. Ruthie has also recently been featured both as an actress, with a guest appearance on NBC's television series *Revolution*, and as a classical vocalist, with Austin's prestigious vocal ensemble *Conspirare*.

To date, Ruthie's artistry and creative output have both been lauded with accolades on regional and national platforms. Outside of her 2010, 2012 and 2014 Grammy nominations, Ruthie has been recognized by organizations such as the Austin Music Awards (2007, 2008 and 2013 Best Female Vocalist), Blues Music Awards (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013), Living Blues Awards (2010 Critics' Poll Winner and 2011 nominee for Blues Female Artist of the Year).

LAURA CHEADLE

"WHERE THE BLUES HANGS OUT"

CD review by Greg Hogg

On Saturday afternoon September 3, 2016, Laura Cheadle and the Family Band made their Central PA debut performance at the East Petersburg Gypsy Moon Blues Festival in Lancaster County. This young blues singer/songwriter from New Jersey has worked her Family Band out of NYC and currently out of Philadelphia.

Along with Laura's sultry funky blues vocals she plays guitar with her father James S. Cheadle on keyboards and brother Jimmy Lee Cheadle on lead guitar. Another brother, Nick Cheadle also has played in the Family Band as a second keyboard player. The family that plays together, stays together!

"Where The Blues Hangs Out" is a mixture of blues and ballads, 10 of the 13 tracks on this CD written or co-written by father James S. and Laura. I enjoy listening to well recorded and performed original material, so re-viewing this CD is a pleasure for me. Along with Laura, James S., Jimmie Lee are Mikey Jr. and Steve Guyger adding harmonica tracks, B.W. Smith handling the drumming, Bobby Michaels on Sax and Jeff "Blondie" Von Stenz on trumpet. Back ground vocals are added by Laura's mother, Sue Cheadles, Madi Hart and Maddie Brewer.

"Where The Blues Hangs Out" begins with the title track, a piano and harmonica loaded shuffle, a nice up tempo tune to kick this off!

"This Love Looks Good On Me" is a smoky sultry slow ballad, a great dance a grinding slow dance.

"As Long As You Love Me" makes good use of Laura's voice and her 3 back up female vocalists. The horn section guys also join in this song. "Morning" is a slow song with lots of soul.

The first of the three cover tunes on this CD is Lil' Son Johnson's "Rock Me Baby". I like the lead guitar soloing here.

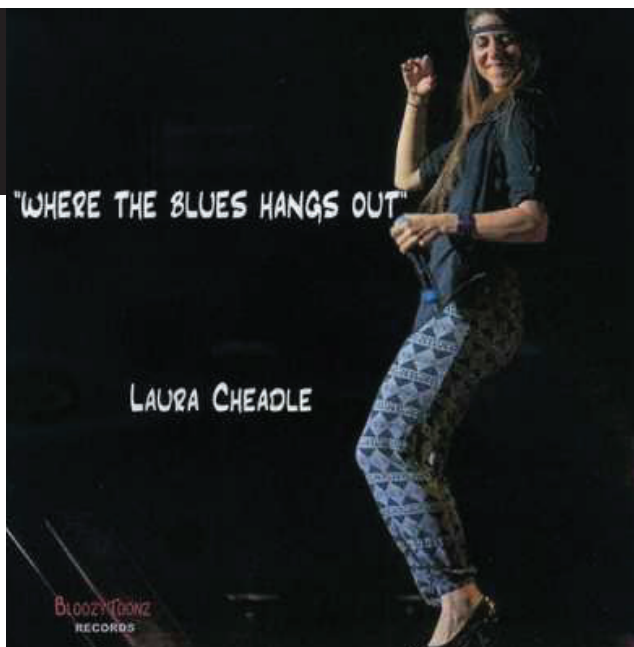
"The Best It Could Feel" is another sultry slow ballad. I'm impressed with the songwriting that this family creates, nice arrangements! After a nice harmonica intro, Laura tries to "Teach You To Love". More great harmonica soloing mid track, I'm not sure if it's Mikey Jr. or Steve Guyger but I know I like it!

"Change" (It's Alright) Laura is joined with the vocal chores on this ballad by her father and there's soft harmonica flowing in the back-ground.

"Midst Of Your Misery" Slow and sexy lament, a love song. Nice guitar soloing by brother Jimmie Lee. Now for those with 'happy feet'... "This Life Is Made to Dance".

Laura features the Gershwin/Heyward classic "Summertime" so 'hush little baby, don't you cry'! Nice organ soloing by James S. Cheadle. "Blue Sky" is a romping soulful tune about being comfortable with oneself and not worrying about what others think. Wrapping up this CD is T-Bone Walker's "Call It Stormy Monday" recorded live.

It was indeed a pleasure to see, hear and meet Laura Cheadle in East Petersburg and "Where The Blues Hangs Out" was only one of several others that she has available to sell at her shows. Enrich you lives and get out and support live musical artists and the venues that feature them. Use it or lose it!



COMING SOON.....2016 BSCP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!

by Andy Kehe

Anyone seeking a plateful of smooth, soulful blues to go with their sweet potatoes and meatballs during the holiday season should look no further than the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania's Christmas Party at the Hummelstown Fire Hall on Dec. 4.

One of the last remaining great soul/blues players Johnny Rawls will be there to serve, accompanied by regional favorite The Cornlickers.

Upbeat rhythms? Rawls, a multi soul/blues award winner over a 30year solo career, can bring that, too.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. for the allyoucaneat, BYOB potluck dinner and show. Admission is free to BSCP members. Annual membership and renewals will be sold at the door for \$10.

Always hungry, always traveling, always working, always excited to play the blues his way, Rawls, who turned 65 in September, can satisfy both those who want to juke and jive on the dance floor or who just want to toe tap and head bob from the comfort of their table.

"If you had to sum up Johnny and his music in one word, it would be smooth," reported Blues on Stage music guide. "Everything he does, from singing, playing guitar, writing songs, and interacting with his fans reflects the polish and considerable talent he has developed over the years."

Inspired by the likes of former mentors OV Wright and Otis Clay among others, Rawls has produced 15 CDS since 2001, including his 2016 release on Catfood Records "Tiger in a Cage," which is up for several Blues Music awards.

"Johnny Rawls continues with the casual brilliance he displayed on his previous (albums). As always, his soul/blues singing holds a singular combination of gentlemanly authority and painfully felt vulnerability on topgrade original tunes and choice covers," reported Frank John-Hadley in the May, 2016 edition of Downbeat.

As late as June, "Tiger In The Cage" was the No. 3 Soul Blues Album on the Roots Music Report. It had been No. 1 for 11 weeks. Previous releases include "Soul Brothers" (2014), and "Remembering OV" (2013), a tribute to OV Wright. The album featured the late Otis Clay as a special guest. "Remembering OV" was nominated for 2014 Soul Album of the Year and Rawls for Male Soul Artist of the Year, his 11th and 12th Blues Music Awards nominations.

Rawls was born and raised in Mississippi and was inspired as a young boy to play guitar by his grandfather. He began to play professionally as a teenager in the 1960s and in the mid 1970s he was Wright's band director. After Wright's death in 1980, Rawls led Little Johnny Taylor's band until embarking on a solo career in 1985.

A prolific songwriter with more than 100 songs recorded, Rawls has traveled the world playing soulful blues, and will have booked more than 100 dates before the year is out, including two stints in Europe. The BSCP Christmas Party will be Rawls' 20th gig since Oct. 1, a stretch that included a 7day blues cruise.

"I sing soul," Rawls told the Palm Beach New Times. "I stand out because I do original songs that have a good beat to them. It's a different side to the blues. I take a lot of time and effort to write songs so they don't sound like they were just thrown together. In order to stand out, you have to write great songs."



The Blues Society of Central Pa's
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 4th
at the Hummelstown Fire Hall
249 E. Main St. Hummelstown, Pa 17036

with very special guest

Johnny Rauls
www.johnnyrawlsblues.com

**& The
CORNCLICKERS**



Doors open at
1:30 pm
Food will be served at
2:00 pm

Admission is FREE
to BSCP Members!

Memberships and renewals
will be available at the door
for just \$10.



BYOB



www.bscpblues.org

We welcome side dishes and desserts

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