



Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania
www.bscpblues.com

BLUES NEWS

Oct - Dec. 2022

KING SOLOMON HICKS
BSCP CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022



DOORS OPEN 1 PM
FOOD 2 PM MUSIC 3 PM
HUMMELSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
249 E. MAIN ST.

FREE for BSCP 2022 Members
\$20 at the Door

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**BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

BSCP BOD welcomes our two newest members: Mike Easton and Valerie McCaffrey. Thank you for taking on the responsibilities of being on the board.

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Printed by Get It Now Print

4790 Derry St, Harrisburg, PA

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From your President...

Having missed my morning walk yesterday due to rain, I was especially happy to be out today, smelling the delicious air laden with moisture, seeing the intense colors of the fall flowers, hearing the loudly-chirping birds and chatting with neighbors waiting for the school bus.

As I strolled, my mind drifted to the letter I planned to write you all when I returned home. My first thought was about the upcoming 2022 Memorial Jam that BSCP will be having Thursday, October 20, from 6 pm – 11 pm at Champions to celebrate the lives of jammers who have passed since our last Memorial Jam in 2019 which honored Mitch Ivanoff (p. 12).

All tips and donations will go to the BSCP Education Fund which carries on the legacy of our jammers to keep the blues alive. This past summer the fund supported three Master Classes. A shout out to Joe Kambic, chairperson, and the rest of the Education Committee for arranging these classes given by exceptional musicians (p. 12).

While the 2022 Memorial Jam will be a special event, I want to note that each week BSCP honors our "dearly departed" musicians with pictures in the slide show created and maintained by J.D. Drudul and shown at Champions at the Thursday Night Blues Jam (p. 15). Thank you, J.D., for giving us these moments to remember how much joy each of these musicians brought into our lives.

As I continued walking, I thought about what an incredible summer it has been with a wealth of blues music available in our local area and festivals within driving distance. Thank you to Mike Knott, Ken Swartz, Kirk Hansen, Lewis Bechtold and Larry Fogelson who share their pictures with us (pps . 8, 9 and 14).

Best part is there is more music to come which you can learn about through our website bscpblues.com

created and maintained by Dan Mowery. BSCP invites bands to post information on our website about their upcoming gigs. As well, Mike Knott regularly updates the gig calendar a month or two in advance.

Come celebrate the holidays with BSCP members at the annual BSCP Christmas Party December 4. Having received rave reviews from outstanding musicians like Clarence Spady, I am looking forward to dancing to the very talented King Solomon Hicks band. To learn more, go to page 4 to read the interview done by one of his biggest fans, Dan Mowery.

Lewis Bechtold, a passionate bluesman, sent me a quote by John Mayall made at the 2011 Jakarta International Blues Festival. "My advice is to play the music you want to play and express the feelings you want to express through your music; and whether it catches on or not with the public long enough to make a living out of it is another matter entirely beyond your control... It was about making music, passing on this love of blues music to the world."

It is what BSCP is all about... passing on this love of the blues.



Kathryn Gregoire
bluesmunga@gmail.com

Mission Statement

The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation, promotion, support and enjoyment of the truly original American art form, the blues.

Meet Your Board Members: Michael Knott

By Hannah Sherman



Growing up in Hanover, Mike listened to his parent's 78's. His favorites were "Turkey in de Straw" by Billy Golden with the flip side being "Whistlin' Pete" by Golden and his brother, Hughes. He was also influenced by what his two older brothers were listening to. Mike's uncle played clarinet and a cousin played accordion in the York area. Mike picked up the clarinet for two years in grade school but now considers himself a good listener.

With high school came the British invasion with the Stones and the Beatles, his favorites, - in that order. Like others, he was hearing blues without knowing it. The one that hooked him was BB's "The Thrill is Gone," and I'm learning that was true for many. He got heavy into soul with Aretha Franklin, Four Tops, The Temptations, etc. He also liked Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, James Taylor, Carole King, Allman Brothers, J. Geils,

Little Feat, John Prine and John Hyatt.

His first blues show was in New Cumberland with The Middleton Brothers opening for Junior Wells. He had no idea who Junior Wells was but he found out! The year 1992 was pivotal when he found out about the House of Blues and within six months he was in Cambridge, MA. being blown away by Ricky "King" Russell and the Cadillac Horns, not even remembering who the headliner was. Locally things opened up for him with Queen Bee and the Blue Hornet Band and Rosie and the Naturals.

Mike's first festival was in the mid-90's at the Western Maryland Blues Festival and he's been there every year since. Gettysburg had a place called the Schoolhouse and once a month there was a national act on Sunday afternoons. From there he learned about KClinger's in Hanover with blues every Wednesday. Currently, his annual festival line-up includes Chenango Blues Festival, Billtown Blues, Juke Joint Festival, King Biscuit, and New York State Blues Festival, among many others. Concerts are not ignored and Graham Nash was enjoyed recently.

Picking a favorite BSCP event is not possible because he says, "I like them all!" Mike is our Events Chair so of course he likes them all! He states that the Mississippi Railroad is our most unique event as nobody else has done anything like it and it's an honor to continue showcasing Mississippi artists. Our annual Mom I Picnic is also special in its own right by showcasing local bands. Yes,

Mike is the man who gets it done as he says, "It's exciting bringing in national acts and having local bands open for them. We would love to see more members show up to appreciate all our events." I'm going to guess that Mike probably likes getting to know fellow BSCP members as he ended up marrying one!

When asked what something is people don't know about him, we got this answer: "What people don't know about me is what I don't want people knowing about me." Upon reflection he says he has OCD in that he can't eat just one. "That's why I go to 10-12 blues festivals a year - I can't get enough of it!"

Buster Grubb: A truly dedicated blues fan. He knows the blues. He knows everybody and is a friend of everybody.

Cathy Young: Such a friendly soul. He works hard and parties hard. He does a good job producing our shows.

Kathryn Gregoire: Most people know Mike as the hard-working BSCP Events Chairperson who brings us outstanding local, regional and national acts throughout the year. I am fortunate to have also gotten to know him well in his role as BSCP Board Vice-President. I highly value his thoughtful assessments and willingness to serve behind the scenes to keep BSCP functioning smoothly. Mike is always available to discuss and process organizational business, such as the by-laws, policies, and the newsletter. He and his wife, Betty, have spent many an evening proofreading Blues News. Mike is personable, high-energy and quick-witted. He keeps the blues alive!

In Memoriam

by Jackson Fogel



David "Chainsaw" Dupont

August 13, 1956 - September 9, 2022

David "Chainsaw" Dupont rocked every band he was in with his self-proclaimed "Delta Crush" style, a sort of industrial blues sound that he used in jazz, reggae and more. Born and raised in the Mississippi Delta, Dupont found time to learn the blues in between shifts picking cotton. He and an older brother made their way to Chicago's west side in the early seventies and never went back. With his guitar - the nominal "Chainsaw" - and what he called his bluesman's wit, Dupont found his way through bands and shows all over the country, leaving a signature mark on every one of them.

BSCP 2022 CHRISTMAS PARTY FEATURES

KING SOLOMON HICKS

By Dan Mowery

BSCP is thrilled to be bringing Harlem native, King Solomon Hicks, to Central PA for our free annual Xmas membership party. Multiple Grammy Award winner and bassist, Kirk Yano, and drummer, Steve Holly, will join this 26-year-old rising star for an afternoon of great blues music on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at Hummelstown Fire Hall, 349 Main St., Hummelstown, PA. The event is free with 2022 BSCP membership or \$20 at the door.

Hicks got an early start with music on stage at the Cotton Club when he was 13 and has racked up an impressive resume since then having opened for Jeff Beck and Ringo Starr, playing festivals in Spain and France, playing several music cruises including Joe Bonamassa's "Blues Alive" at Sea Cruise, as well as having shared stages with names like Tony Bennett, George Thorogood, Mavis Staples, and Paul Shaffer, to name a few.

His album "Harlem," released in 2020, is an impressive debut featuring great original music and covers of blues standards that show a maturity beyond his years with an energetic modern feeling.

I recently had the opportunity to talk to KSH over the phone to dive a little deeper.

Dan M: Tell us about how you got into music and what was the spark that told you to pick up the guitar?

KSH: I was very fortunate to have supportive parents and my mom got me some guitar lessons when I was six and I played guitar all throughout middle school. I got my start playing different jazz standards like Joe Pass and Wes Montgomery. It was at the Cotton Club that I was given the opportunity to do three songs on my own. When I played Chuck Berry's "Johnny B Goode," I saw what that song did to the crowd. I thought, I don't know what this feeling is, I see what it's doing to the crowd, and I

feel what it's doing to me, but I think I want to do this for life.

Dan M: Tell us about the release of your debut album, "Harlem" and plans for the follow-up.

KSH: Just before Covid we had opened for Jeff Beck and Ringo Star at the Holland Blues Festival and followed that up with our album release right at the beginning of Covid. Some people feel that the timing was a setback, but also in another sense it was a positive thing because people got a chance to listen to music. The album ended up winning the 2021 Blues Music Awards for Best Emerging Artist.

The album "Harlem" was the first time I was able to work with a really good producer, Kirk Yano. He gave me the freedom to go through all these different sounds and did not put me into a box. We were able to put a different spin on the album. Right now, we are working on the next album working with Pete Brown, the lyricist from Cream, who wrote "White Room," "Politician," and "Sunshine of Your Love."

While playing in London at the 100 Club, Pete came out to the show and he was very supportive and spoke a lot of words of wisdom. A few weeks down the line he sent us some notes and said I think this would be good for you and taking those same ideas and working it for the next album and being able to get the same results but a little faster and with more accuracy. Pete has been great to work with on those lyrics. For the second album, we already have the tracks together and it's about giving them a little room to breathe. We are working with the band, Lettuce, and the band, Soulive, and guitarist, Eric Krasno, on some of that material.

Dan M: A lot of musicians feel that Covid has been a creative bloom. Do

you feel the same way?

KSH: At the beginning of 2021, nothing was really happening and now we are seeing artists back on the road. Theatres are able to generate revenue and the whole economy of music is alive again. We want to let people feel safe and comfortable to come back out. It's been an interesting balance of playing shows and progressing the new record. You can't forget about one or the other. I always like the saying "When you are on the road, you can't wait to be back home and when you're home you can't wait to be back on the road."

Dan M: What are your goals when you hit the stage in terms of connecting with the audience?

KSH: It's a mixture of adapting to the audience and sticking with a defined setlist. Some nights the crowd wants to go crazy and jump up dancing and they want to see beer bottles on the floor and a lot of energy, but other times we play to a crowd like a recent show in New York where the crowd is a listening crowd and sitting down and they are there to watch the musicians. Every crowd is different.

I've been listening to some interviews recently with either BB King or Albert King and they said, I don't play wondering if I played the right note, I played and made sure that I gave the feeling and intent of the note. That quote stuck with me, but I've always been more of a fan of bringing the feeling to the crowd, not focusing on it being a technical masterpiece. It changes every night.

You can find King Solomon Hicks on the web at <https://kingsolomonhicks.com/> and listen to his debut album on Spotify but trust me that you need to see this young man play live to understand how powerful his stage presence and performance can be!

Jammin' Around Canada

By John 'JD' Drudul

Travelling around in my RV gives me some opportunities to check out blues jams in different areas. My trips to Canada a few years back led me to jams in Montreal, Quebec City, and Halifax. All of these jams used a 'host band' format and a sign-up sheet for musicians.



The Montreal jam is held at the Brasserie l'Unik restaurant and bar in the suburbs of Montreal on a neighborly tree lined street. There is outdoor seating on a patio set back from the sidewalk. I got a table and viewed the menu and drink selections.

The jam crew was busy finalizing PA setup. I grabbed my adult beverage, walked up to the jam coordinator, Pierre, and introduced myself. We had been communicating a few months earlier before beginning my trip. He was happy to see me and that I actually made it all the way from PA. He explained the jam format and pointed me to the sign-up sheet. He told me Sonny Wolf was the host for the jam tonight. Sonny is a popular blues man and rocker around the Montreal and Quebec regions. He has since taken up roots in Austin TX, gigging full time in many Austin establishments. I was in Austin this past March and went to see Sonny at Friends bar for 3 hours.

I went back to the patio table and enjoyed dinner while Sonny jammed out the first set. He laid out some awesome guitar work with his 3 piece band, playing classic blues and rockin' on slide for half the set.

I got called up for the second set with a new cast of musicians. It was a good jam with another guitar player and me swapping leads. I then hung around for the remaining sets and enjoyed some good jams.

Check out the L'Unik jams on their Facebook page.

<https://m.facebook.com/BrasserieUnik/>

Check out Sonny Wolf on his Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/sonny.wolf>

The L'Unik jam.

<https://youtu.be/e2iu42TctH4>



The Quebec City jam is held at Pub Limoilou, a cool corner bar just north of the St. Charles river from downtown. I got a table near the front of the stage and set up my camera.

Mike DeWay, a prominent blues musician in Quebec City, has been hosting this weekly jam for years. Mike arrived and I helped him load in some equipment. He speaks French and very little English, so an interpreter helped us communicate. Mike has even played some concerts in France.

Mike stays up on stage the entire night inviting various musicians up to jam. Mike invited me up two times during the night. There were some solid musicians at this jam. It was a new experience hearing some classic blues sung in French!

Mike has tickets in his pocket for free drinks that he passes out to all the musicians during the night. That was a nice, unexpected gesture from the establishment.

Check out the Limoilou jams on their Facebook page.

<https://m.facebook.com/Publmoilou/>

Check out Mike DeWay on his Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/mike.deway>

The Limoilou jam

<https://youtu.be/1KzRoLkWT9o>

The Halifax jam is held at Bearly's House of Blues and Ribs located down in



the south end of town. The Bearly's Blues Jam has been in operation for decades. I got a table near the back wall, set up my camera, and put in my order.

Andrew Gillis, a notable vocalist and harp player around Nova Scotia, is the host for this weekly jam. Andrew explained the jam format and rules to me. Effect boxes are not allowed. Andrew starts the jam with his drummer and bass player, and a different guest guitarist each week. Buck Tingley was the guest guitarist for this jam.

Unknown to me, it was Canada Day, and over 21 musicians showed up to play. Andrew invited me up and I played a few tunes, with 2 sax players joining in.

I was intrigued with the music I heard. It was blues, but had a different local twist to it, a subtle style difference that I never heard before.

Check out the Bearlys website.

<http://www.bearlys.ca/bluesjam>

There is also a Facebook group for the jam.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/130555967812/>

I highly recommend checking out Buck, a truly unique blues guitarist, on YouTube.

<http://www.bearlys.ca/buck>

The Bearlys jam.

<https://youtu.be/Ym3ofgvjuSE>

Overall, I was impressed with the quality of these Canadian blues jams. The people were great and shared their love and enthusiasm for the blues. The blues is alive and well in Canada!

Summer of '22: Chasin' the Blues

By Lewis Bechtold

More events at more venues. June 15 found Brenda and me at Saint George's Country Store in Saint Georges, DE. This small intimate country store double as a bar, a restaurant (with some fine Cajun style NOLA cooking including Muffaletta!) and a music venue. Generally reservation only. This date occasioned the opportunity to witness blues music icons from the West Coast.

Harmonica player/singer Mark Hummel, along with his buddy, guitarist Rusty Zinn, were touring the East Coast from their base in the San Francisco Bay area which has developed a rich swing style of blues music.

Mark has developed a series of albums on CD that are compilations of a variety of harmonica artists from around the country. "Blues Harp Meltdown Volumes 1 & 2" is on Mountain Top records. Mark Hummel's "Blues Harmonica Blowouts" and "East Bay Blues Vaults" (1976 – 1988) is on Electro-Fi records. This includes live and impromptu performances by artists such as William Clarke, Lazy Lester, Carey Bell, Lee Oskar, Billy Boy Arnold, Gary Primich, James Harman and Gary Smith.

Mark is an able and artistic performer singing and playing all types of harmonicas. He is a Grammy Award Nominee and has won several Blues Music Awards. A road warrior of renown, Mark started the Blues Survivors in 1977 with Mississippi Johnny Waters and has been touring since, although infrequently, on the East Coast. More can be found at <https://markhummel.com/about> Rusty Zinn is an American electric blues and reggae guitarist and singer-songwriter. Zinn released six albums between 1996 and 2009 on Black Top, Alligator, Bad Daddy and 9 Above Records. He has worked with



Rusty Zinn and Mark Hummel

Mark Hummel, Kim Wilson, Larry Taylor and has done additional studio work. In 1996, Zinn released his solo debut album "Sittin' & Waitin'" on Black Top Records, which saw Wilson act as both accompanist and record producer. It earned Zinn a Blues Music Award nomination as 'Best New Blues Artist'.

Rusty is an accomplished reggae music guitarist and has released several albums in that vein. More info can be found at www.rustyreggae.com Together these fellows, along with Nick Toscano of Providence, RI, on drums and Mike Law from Hartford, CT,

on upright and electric bass guitar put on an engaging two set show in your lap. I highly recommend a visit to Saint Georges Country Store to witness a very personal music experience. Sunday July 31st found this blues music fan at the Crooked Eye Brewery in Hatboro, PA, there to see and hear the last



Jeffrey Attakorah

of three "Future of the Blues" shows produced by Derek Matteson, aka Harmonica Slim of Slim and the Perkolators, Philadelphia, PA. In addition to Slim on the harp, the stage line-up included Zack Lees, guitar, New Castle, DE; Jackson Allen, harmonica, Lawrenceville, GA; Skylar Saufley, guitar, Phoenix City, PA, and Jeffery Attakorah, guitar, New Castle, DE, by way of Ghana.

This show added bass man Steve Kirsty of the Fabulous Thunderbirds to the lineup. Steve played both double bass upright and Fender Jazz bass guitar. Also sitting-in was Tim Perk, guitar, who is the Perk in Slim and the Perkolators. The one true blues road warrior was the drummer throughout the three events, BIG Joe Maher of Big Joe and the Dynaflores.

This was my first experience seeing Skylar Saufley. The hype was not unjustified. I became aware of Skylar when Blues On The Loose went to Memphis to compete in the 2020 IBC. He had also won a regional play-off and was performing that same weekend. I didn't see that show. I was kinda busy myself, but I wasn't gonna miss this opportunity and I wasn't disappointed. Skylar has a throwback approach to his blues and includes a spectrum of tunes from pre-war era through the mid-twentieth century. Check him out online: www.facebook.com/skylarsaufleymusic I especially enjoyed this show. It provided everything I hope to witness in a blues music show. I believe there is a planned Future of the Blues 2.0 in the planning stages. I hope to give you that news in the next newsletter. Please take time to investigate these talented individuals, band combos and blues music venues. Most



Skylar Saufley

have profiles online.

www.slimandtheperkolators.com

<http://www.saintgeorgescountrystore.com/>
<https://crookedeyebrewery.com/>

The last of these great blues shows was a trip to Sellersville Theater, Sellersville, PA. Sellersville Theater is a great place to enjoy any type of stage production. They offer light snacks and alcoholic beverages and comfortable seating. For members they offer up front cafe style seating to view the shows. Sunday, August 14, was the Pennsylvania stop for The Fabulous Thunderbirds featuring Kim Wilson 2022 summer tour. They did not disappoint. Their line-up included Jerry Weldon baritone sax and tenor sax, Dean Shot guitar, Steve Kirsty bass guitar and upright, Bob Welsh keyboards & guitar, Rudy Albin drums and of course, Kim on harmonica and vocals. They performed a collection of older and newly released songs. "Tuff Enuff" and "Wrap It Up" are two that come to mind. Many arrangements included engaging solos from each, but Jerry Weldon was a stand out on his horn. He has led his own groups in New York for 35 years and has played with Harry Connick Jr. extensively since 1990.

More about tour dates and background can be found at:

<https://fabulousthunderbirds.com> about A bit of a drive from Central PA, but I highly recommend the experience. Check Sellersville Theater for other regional and national blues music opportunities.
www.st94.com



Fabulous Thunderbirds



In the Spotlight...

Bill Wasch

By Hannah Sherman



Growing up in South Philly was a great place to learn about music. It was everywhere. Bill's first influence was his grandfather who played piano in New York big bands. Remembering, "When I was old enough to sit up without falling over sitting on the piano bench next to him. My great-grandmother was a concert pianist in Germany in the 1800's. My parents both played music - it was in the house all the time. Piano, guitar, ukulele, I've been around piano and other instruments all my life." Bill started piano lessons at four and guitar at five. His grandfather taught him two important lessons: when he was 10 or so he was sitting next to his grandfather on the piano bench playing guitar along with the piano and he threw in a single-line fill. "My grandfather stopped dead and said, "Just strum the chords, boy. I'll be the star!" The second lesson was the same situation but his grandfather was playing a new song and Bill just couldn't get it so he asked for the key and was told, "You studied this stuff - you tell me!"

In grade school his teacher sent him to the Settlement School of Music in Philadelphia where he studied trombone, cello, music theory and composition at 9 years of age. The teachers there were from the Philadelphia Orchestra. He studied

there for six years.

Bill had his first paying gig with his first band at a splash party at a local pool when he was 8 years old. All through high school ('68-'74) he played in bands, mostly rock covers. Shows took him to the Jersey Shore. College then curtailed his music career.

Like many others, "The Thrill is Gone" is what hooked him to the blues while listening to WIP Philly radio. That's when, "I started to read about musicians I listened to and what influenced them and they talked about Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, etc. Mostly I take a little bit from this and little from that but my main influence remains my grandfather. I also liked the Yardbirds with Clapton, Beck and Page. I'm also a big jazz fan (avant garde, big band). I saw Lake Street Dive, a pop/jazz blend, recently. As I grow as a musician, I practice 2-3 hours a day. There's always more to learn. I always liked Steely Dan with an attitude of jazz harmonies and rock guitar blend. I try to see as many local bands as I can."

Bill attended the first meeting of the BSCP with Beulah Mae, Jimboe, Carrie, Mitch, Dale, Tony, Gary and others. He remembers from that meeting that the mission was to curate awareness of the blues back to its roots making sure it was available to the public. That is his first favorite thing about BSCP. Next, you guessed it, is the jam. "It's a great time with extraordinary people. I like how welcoming we are to new players. Everyone is supportive - it's amazing!"

Bill has worked at many things in his life, mostly in the restaurant business. Retired, he now works part-time for a friend as an accountant. He ended up loving it. "I've had an interesting life but the last few years have been the best." Something many may not know: Bill loves to cook and states he's very good at it. "I have almost as much passion for cooking as I do for music." He has three freezers to fill and his wife's green

thumb helps with the ingredients. Maybe he'll have us over for dinner!

Christy Lerch: Bill is a phenomenal musician and his knowledge of music from the past few decades is truly prodigious. He has played for more than 60 years and has an impressive musical resume. From working as a session musician as a teen to playing with some of the most popular local bands through the years, music has always been a huge part of his life. Bill also shares his knowledge and love of music through teaching and mentoring. He currently works with three bands in addition to delivering amazing performances each week at the jam. Whether he is playing guitar, bass, keys or singing, he is a real asset to the BSCP and an all-around great musician. I can't say enough good things about Bill. I just love him!

Chris Holben: Bill could write the world's most interesting memoir, if he could sit still long enough to finish one. He is a fantastic blues musician, a patient mentor, and a fierce friend. His kindness and integrity make him a joy to be around - on stage or in the audience.

Todd Klucker: I've known Bill since I met him in a show at Harrisburg in 1994 at the Civic Center. I was playing in a band for the first time. I remember looking at him and thinking Wow! I don't know that much, I'm not that good. And then, a couple years later, I ended up auditioning for the band Rosie and The Naturals and got the gig. I was kind of green at the time, a young player, and Bill had 20 plus years. Bill took me under his wing and he was a mentor to me. So I learned a lot on the road. All the gigs that they had, it was, you know, new to me and they had the experience and they kind of protected me. I learned a lot from Bill. I have great admiration for him. He is an incredible musician. He plays keyboards, all kinds of instruments, and he is a great person. He is a good guy. He has always liked me and I have a lot of respect for him. He is a top-notch player in the area.

On the Road Again

Pictures by Mike Knott (unless otherwise indicated)

St. Georges Blues Festival (Pics by Kirk Hansen)



Rick Estrin



John Studebaker



Toronzo Cannon



Wayne Sharp

Chenango Blues Festival



Jeff Taylor / Altered 5 Blues Band



Annika Chambers



Jimmie Vaughn



EG Knight (Pic by Larry Fogelson)



Nick Moss, Rodrigo Mantovani, Dennis Gruenling (Pic by Larry Fogelson)

Briggs Farm Blues Festival



Laura Chavez
(pic by Larry Fogelson)



Lee Fields & the Expressions

Heritage Music BLUESFEST



Damon Fowler & Jason Ricci



Kat Riggins



Curtis Salgado



Ruthie Foster

NY State Blues Festival



Terrance Simien



Ron Spencer



Vanessa Collier



Carolyn Kelly

Billtown Blues Festival



Nikki Hill



Ann Kerstetter



Becky Blue



Lurrie Bell

Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival



Gabe Stillman



Joss Stone



Danielle Nicole



Bernard Allison

All Roads Lead to the Blues

By Roger Hammer



The classic phrase "All roads lead to Rome" brings to mind a picture of actual roads converging on that classic city. Another way to think of it is that all paths or activities lead to the center of things (Dictionary.com). A strong case along the same lines can be made for the kind of music we all know and love: The Blues.

I thought it would be interesting to get some understanding of how different folks took their own path to appreciating Blues. Ideally, sitting down over a favorite drink and having a long discussion would have been my preferred method of reporting. Since for various reasons that could not be arranged, instead I sent out a brief request to some people I know, many who have been involved in the BSCP. Within the limits of today's instant messaging, I tried to keep the responses candid yet brief to value everyone's perspective on an equal basis. Here was my request:

I am writing an article for BSCP Blues News and would love to hear from you. It will be called "All Roads Lead to the Blues," about how people have found and love the Blues. I am kindly asking for no more than three sentences from you that can be directly quoted in the article: when you first heard the blues, why you got interested and continue to like Blues, and briefly who you are.

What follows are the marvelous replies that I received. They are in no particular order except that they are more or less in the order in which they were received, mostly over Labor Day weekend. While I may editorialize a bit, understand that the words in quotes are exactly as received. Their words

warmed my musical soul and I hope the reader will feel the same.

I already knew of a request for content for an upcoming issue of Blues News and found a willing participant to kick off my report.

"As a child I loved listening to my Mom playing ragtime music on the piano. Then in the 60's and early 70's I was introduced to the music of Otis Redding, Lightnin' Hopkins, B.B. King, Rolling Stones, and Janis Joplin. Blues moves my body and soul like nothing else does. -Kathryn Gregoire, President, Blues Society of Central PA."

Those are indeed Blues greats who have moved countless others as well. Thank you, Kathy.

This perspective is from an active Blues musician.

"As a singer, songwriter and slide guitarist from Chicago, I first heard the blues as a little kid watching my older brother play with his band. The raw emotion captured me and I continue to listen to the blues because hearing the stories about the hardships of others connects me to others. -Donna Herula"

Sometimes the road can be close to home and family, while being captured by the emotion of Blues is universal. In case you would like to read more about this unique artist, Donna was featured on p. 18 of the July-Sept. 2022 issue of Blues News.

Here the name of B.B. King is mentioned again, among other Blues greats who have been strong influences on so many of us.

"I first heard John Mayall. Then John Lee Hooker and BB King caught my attention. As a guitar player, I like jamming to blues related tunes to get

that good vibe and creative fix. You know who I am, lol. -JD"

Well, I did ask the question 'who you are' even if I already knew...so allow me to remind the reader that JD has been a frequent jammer at BSCP events and provided backing vocals and melodic leads on acoustic and modelling guitars in the Roger Hammer Music duo. Good to hear from him!

Next is a spin from another musician who is familiar to BSCP and numerous Harrisburg area venues.

"The recordings of blues covers by the likes of Eric Clapton, Johnny Winter and Led Zeppelin led me to a deeper exploration of their origins. My first listens to Robert Johnson and Howlin' Wolf sealed the deal. -Bob Wineland"

Influences from the rock side of the musical spectrum as well as credit to the true original Blues artists is a common theme and shows how many roads indeed lead to the same place. Bob has not stopped with listening to recordings and I have been amazed at his playing on many occasions.

At this point in the journey, allow me to answer my own question with no further comment.

"My first experience with Blues was strangely enough from the British Invasion and groups like The Animals and Rolling Stones who covered original Blues. I do not see Elvis Presley mentioned in other responses, and in all fairness whether you think of him as a Blues artist or not, he did in fact bring a lot of Blues to a much wider and different (yes, white) audience, including my own younger self growing up in Omaha. I myself am a technologist, musician and writer, and

if you give me a walking bass, I will run with it. -Roger Hammer"

Location can strongly shape one's experience.

"Growing up in NYC, the Village was my stomping ground during high school where I first caught the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, James Cotton, and the Blues Project at the Cafe A-Go-Go in the mid '60s. During college years I saw 85 percent of the bands that played the Fillmore East with Morrison, Janis, Jimmy, and the Allman Brothers as stand outs. However the connection was finally cemented when I led groups of college students down to Clarksdale from 2005-2010 during the off season, with Big Jack Johnson graciously playing for us at Red's joined by Big T Williams, Lightnin' Malcolm, Robert Belfour, and a local cast of characters. -Michael Heiman"

Quite a lot of good stuff packed in here from the professor, who I happen to know also digs Bluegrass.

Next, I need to bend the rubric a bit to share some of this very colorful story provided by one of the BSCP jammers who taught me "Blues is my business, and business is good."

"Bob, this is your birthday present, and today I would get my first lesson [at the age of 10 with a woman teacher]. She had a Stella rental guitar for me and a lovely Gibson for herself. That year of lessons started with showing me notes on the guitar then basic chords and after a while trying to show me some basic Beatle stuff. Then one day she said something like "You know what? All you really need to know is this ---" and she started playing a walking bass line on her Gibson ES-125. And I thought Yeah! NOW we're getting somewhere. Then, when I was about 13 and had already

been fooling with guitar for 3 years, a fellow a few years older than me named Lou moved in down on the corner of our street. He played guitar and his father played a banjo as I recall. Louis turned me on to Shuggie Otis, Otis Spann, Albert King, and so many other blues artists. That was it. Hook line and sinker, I was hooked for life. -Bob Schell"

Bob now lives in Virginia, where he continues his craft at Brookwood Leather, and invites friends to look him up.

Now to share this very personal explanation of the Blues Connection.

"Blues music often becomes more real, more important, when the heart is in crisis. That was my story as I started connecting to it while playing bass guitar, and it captivated and captured me. It immediately brought me into a community of people who understood that angst and pain and welcomed me in as family – that's what the blues does." -Marianna Wright Schaffer"

Marianna excels not only on bass but on fiddle, and since two bassists don't get to jam at the same time I have been privileged to have served in the bass role myself with her fiddle on the BSCP stage. Thank you for paying forward what you have received.

Here we have a brief history about a particular venue that led to some lifelong appreciation.

"As many of my peers, my 1st exposure to blues was thru British bands in the 60's. My own real explosion into blues was discovering and enjoying the Tuesday blues shows at KClingers Publik House in Etters, PA and the Wednesday blues shows at KClingers Tavern in Hanover, PA. It was while attending these shows that I met BSCP members and became a member.

-Greg Hogg"

Thank you, Greg. It has been great to know you. Keep enjoying the music.

Here is the final entry to meet the Blues News editorial deadline. Remember, this was not a contest, but like all the others, this is a unique personal expression of yet another journey.

The first album I ever purchased was Robin Trower "Bridge of Sighs" on cassette tape, I was 6 years old and I bought it because I thought the cover was interesting. It's my first recollection of hearing blues music. It wasn't until many years later that I realized the music I was hearing in my head was Mississippi Delta and Hill Country Blues. Fast forward to today, I have over 1,000 hours performing in Mississippi Juke Joints and I frequently tour in South America, North America and Europe spreading the word of Mississippi Delta and Hill Country Blues. – Bobby Gentillo"

One final remark: Bobby owns Right Coast Studios where (among numerous other sessions) the BSCP CD Backyard Blues was recorded, mixed and mastered.

However, hopefully you have found this quick trip around the many different roads to the Blues as interesting as I did in putting it together. Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond. To all of you I did not ask, and those I could not include here due to editorial deadlines, I apologize. But hey, if this is well received, we could always publish a road trip Part Two!! Whatever the case, if you were born in the place or some bands invaded your space, something slapped you in the face, and it was The Blues.

A PEEK AT THE PAST

BSCP members cherish the deceased blues musicians who shared their music at the Thursday night jams during the past 25 years. In looking for ways to honor them and to keep our memories alive, board member John "JD" Drudul has been scouring the BSCP archives putting together a memorial list. JD is inserting the information and pictures into the BSCP slide show which is showing at the weekly jam and blues music events at Champions. If you know of a jam musician to add to this list, please email JD at jdrudul@gmail.com with the name, dates of birth and death, and pictures, if you have any.



Chad Salvaggio and Gary Harrington

Tony Formica (1963-2022)
Chad Salvaggio (1967-2021)
Gary Harrington (1954-2021)
Pete Sheridan (1937-2021)
Blaine Weisser (1953-2020)
Mitch Ivanoff (1952-2019)
Don Judy (1951-2018)
Chris Waller (1941-2018)
Mike Noll (1957-2017)
Danny Stueber (1953-2016)
Dale Roat (1952-2015)
Dave Colman (1953-2014)
Kenzie Johnson (1947-2012)
J Stan Middleton (1953-2012)
Jerome Rock Minnaugh (1954-2008)
Bill Carlisle (1923-2008)
Frank Mercurio (1953-2008)

Blues Bands Beat

by Jack Roberts



Jack Roberts here with some more blues news you can use. So, let's catch up on what's happening - or about to happen - with local blues bands.

Blues on the Loose will be kicking off October with a Saturday afternoon appearance as part of the R.O.C.C. - aka Rock Out Crohn's and Colitis Benefit Concert at The Tourist Inn at 671 West Market Street in Hallam, York County.

During covid lockdown, BSCP started its educational initiatives with "Blues Talks" at the beginning of the virtual "jams" held online in place of its regular weekly jams at Champions. These "Blues Talks" videos are available on the BSCP website under Virtual Jams - Blues Talks.

Ian Aston and The Missing Peace will be following up on their act - and their charity work - on Sunday, Oct. 16th, at the Hershey Area Pilots' R.O.C.C. Benefit Concert at Reigle Airport in Palmyra. The event kicks off at 4:15 p.m., and the proceeds will go to the Hershey Medical Center IBD Department. There will be food and drinks, and a bunch of other bands as well.

Also busy these days - **The Little Leroys**. They're working on writing songs for their next blues and roots rock album, which, they say, will be recorded live. And the release will most likely be all digital, according to band member Cindy Little. But, she added, "That remains to be seen." We'll be looking - for sure! Want to hear The Little Leroys live? Who doesn't? They'll be playing at the Halloween party at McCleary's in Marietta on October 29th.

Also working on a new album is **Benjamin Vo**. In a recent email, Benjamin said it will be similar to his previous albums, featuring all original songs. Benjamin said they've just begun recording it and hope to have it finished sometime in November. Sounds like the perfect stocking stuffer to me!

Octavia will be playing a new venue this fall - and we mean "new" in more than one way. On October 8th, The Octavia Blues

Band will perform at the River Trail Brewing in Marietta, a venue recently opened by Craig Trissler. To make things even more exciting, Octavia's show, which runs from 1-6 p.m. that afternoon, will be part of a blues pub crawl from River Trail Brewing to McCleary's Pub - and back again, of course.

"We're trying to bring back some of the stuff they used to do in Marietta before COVID-19 shut it down," said Chuck Trissler, owner of 551 West and Craig Trissler's dad. And that includes the Marietta Blues Pub Crawl. For the record - or CD, if you prefer - the revamped Blues Pub Crawl will be named Blues and Brews.

Let's wrap things up with some more good news: blues diva **Rose Hudson** is back on the stage. On October 1st, Rose and the Soul Blues Review will be appearing at The Royal Square Garden at 134 S. Duke St. in York from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. as part of the Our Voice Event.

That's not all. On October 28th Rose will be performing with Benny Sims and his Funky Trio at the Nitro Bar at 416 Penn Ave. Floor 2, in West Reading.

OK, that's it for now. If you've got Blues News we can use, please email it to me at ragtime_willi@hotmail.com or message me on my Facebook page. Thanks!

2002 Jam Memorial

By Kathryn Gregoire

BSCP is holding the 2022 Jam Memorial Thursday, October 20, from 6 pm - 11 pm to recognize musicians we have lost since our last memorial jam held in honor of Mitch Ivanoff (1954-2019) in August 2019.

The Ivanoff family gifted the money raised to the newly-established BSCP Education fund. BSCP temporarily put a hold on the memorial jams during covid shutdowns but is now back in operation.

To continue the legacy of our jam musicians, BSCP earmarked the money put into the Jam Tip Jar at the event, as well as any designated donations, for the BSCP Education Committee. Donations are tax-deductible and receipts will be available.

During covid lockdown, BSCP did not hold its regular weekly jams at Champions. Instead, we held virtual "jams" online with educational "Blues Talks" at the beginning of

some of the shows. These Blues Talks videos are available on the BSCP website under Virtual Jams - Blues Talks.

BSCP returned to live jams in June 2021 at Champions and is now offering Master Classes in various live venues. Teresa James, a Grammy nominee and a Blues Music Award nominee, presented Blues Singing and Improvisation at Mulberry Art Studios free for the public in Lancaster, PA, on June 19, 2022.

The award-winning Texas Horns, who play with such legends as Jimmie Vaughn and Steve Davis, gave a free Master Class on horns for students in the Lancaster City School District on July 25, 2022.

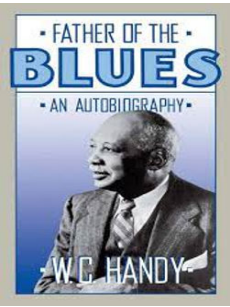
Roman Barten-Sherman, an extraordinary guitar player and vocalist who performed on Zoom for BSCP during the pandemic (see BSCPblues.com), provided a free two-hour

Master Class on Finger-Picking on Zoom on August 12, 2022.

Dan Mowery, BSCP Webmaster, is posting the recordings of the Master Classes on our new BSCP YouTube channel and our BSCPblues.com website. Plans are underway for future Master Classes.

Other blues education activities include the donation of musical instruments to students, the monthly meetings of our BSCP Blues Book Club on Zoom, and the newly-launched BSCP Blues Book Library program.

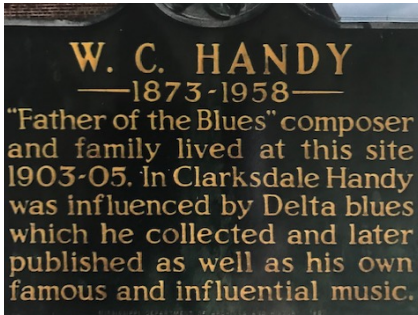
Thank you to all the members of the BSCP Education Committee, chaired by J.J. Kambic, and to the members of the BSCP (Ad hoc) Jam Memorial Committee, chaired by Michael Easton, for all their work, dedication and enthusiasm in carrying out the mission of BSCP to preserve, promote, support and enjoy the blues in Central PA.



BLUES BOOK CORNER

By KATHRYN GREGOIRE

Father of the Blues: An Autobiography by W.C. Handy (1941)



Having seen this Blues Trail sign when I was in Clarksdale MS for the 2018 Juke Joint Festival, I was glad for the opportunity to learn more about the “Father of the Blues” from the words of W.C. Handy himself. An exceptionally articulate writer, he provides a thoughtful and detailed description of his life as a Black musician, band leader, composer, performer, lecturer, and businessman in the United States during the Jim Crow era.

Born in 1873 to former slaves in Florence, Alabama, William Christopher Handy came into a family who saw secular music as the work of the devil. His father, Charles B. Handy, a pastor, once told him “Son, I’d rather see you in a hearse. I’d rather follow you to the graveyard than to hear that you had become a musician.”

As fate would have it, however, Mr. Jim Turner, a fiddle player from Memphis, regaled him with tales of Beale Street. At age 15, W.C. Handy was hooked. He purchased a cornet for \$1.75 and figured out how to play it. There was no turning back. He left home to tour with bands and to reside throughout his life in Memphis, Clarksdale, Chicago and New York City.

In the early 20th century new music was introduced by sheet music, not records. However, the commercial music industry ignored the music of Black Americans. So after 20 years of touring with bands, Handy and a talented businessman, Harry H. Pace, established the first Black-owned sheet music publishing company introduced blues to the world.

Fortunately, while living in Clarksdale, Handy was moved by the power of the blues sung by the field hands of the Delta and collected them carefully recording what he heard. Now he was able to share these songs and his own blues compositions with the world. He created the first blues sheet music, Memphis Blues, followed by such well-known songs as “St. Louis Blues,” “A Good Man is Hard to Find,” “Yellow Dog Blues,” and “Careless Love.”

Our book club loved hearing two live renditions of “Careless Love,” one by Tom Cook on his mandolin and one by Hank Imhof on his Huss & Dalton 2014 Crossroad Model guitar, which is the H & D’s remake of the Gibson L 00 from the 1930’s. Tom learned “Careless Love” from his Uncle Dave who was a Burl Ives-style folk singer in the 1930s on. He describes “Careless Love” as a much-loved song that has been recorded by everyone from Nat King Cole to Bill Monroe. Tom loves playing blues on the mandolin, finding it to be an ornerier and more idiosyncratic instrument which suits him just fine.

Eventually Pace set up the first Black-owned record company, Black Swan, leaving Handy to try to keep the publishing company afloat. Handy became ill and temporarily blind trying to do so. Fortunately, the many friends he had made stepped in with their support and helped him and his company to survive.

So once again, the book club learned of the challenges for Black Americans during the Jim Crow era. Scammed out of his Memphis Blues copywrite, Handy learned very early to be wary. Although gifted, hard-working and innovative, he struggled to make a living as a musician, songwriter, performer, lecturer and businessman to support his family of six children at a time because of little to no protection for the rights of Black Americans.

While his parents didn’t support his music, W.C. credits them with important lessons that guided him through his life. His father emphasized “It’s not getting

religion; it’s doing religion that counts.” His mom taught him to be humble and to learn from others. She taught him to champion those who weren’t being respected and she encouraged him to travel and be open to the world.

These qualities were evident in his actions from valuing the music of all social classes to distributing food to striking dock workers to playing a major role founding the Negro Actors Guild of America, Inc. and participating in The American Academy of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

W.C. Handy considered the greatest experience of his life to be on March 29, 1931, when the former Market Square on Beale St. was named after him in a dedication ceremony followed by the biggest parade Memphis had ever had. Handy was acclaimed as an inspiration to youth who are artistically inclined and invited back to a parade held every five years in his honor.

Book Club members share their thoughts on Father of the Blues.

Hank Imhof: Again it’s been a wonderful look into music and blues history along with more about our country history. William describing in 1904 how the Delta blues made him feel and the flatted 3rd and 7th of the major scale hit him hard. That rhythm is magic, how about it. The vocals hitting notes you can’t write and all this a decade before we had Charlie Patton and others coming on the scene. I would love to know the names of the three piece blues band he heard that changed his life. May have been Charlie or Ike or a couple others we have read about. One thing similar about every book we read is the noting of racial and Jim Crow effects that held them a few steps behind everyone else.

Tom Cook: There are themes which occur in each of the books we have read about blues giants such as Ethel Waters, Memphis Minnie and WC Handy: ability and perseverance despite institutional racism and personal hardship. Their stories are inspiring.

In Case You Missed It!

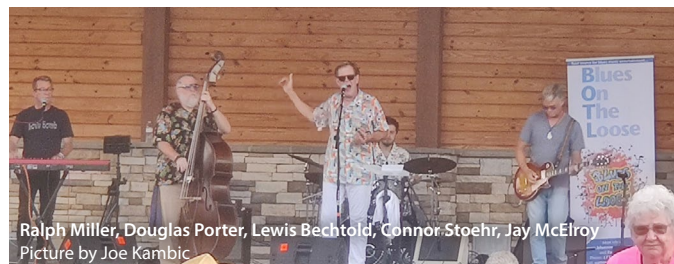
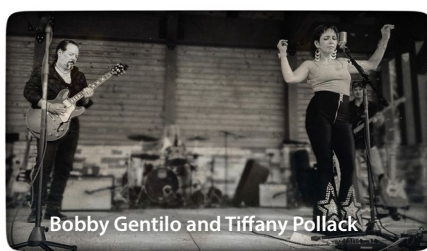
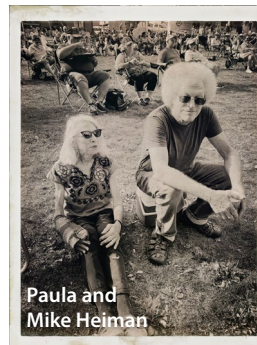
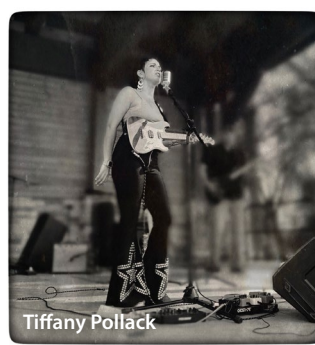
BSCP MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD: Big A & The Cornlickers (July 17, 2022)

Pictures by Kathryn Gregoire



EAST PETERSBURG BLUES FESTIVAL (September 3, 2022)

Pictures by Ken Swartz



BSCP FALL SHOW: Gabe Stillman Band with Ben Brandt & the Soul Miners Union (September 18, 2022)

Pictures by Kathryn Gregoire



Tech Corner: Digital Signage

By John 'JD' Drudul

At the Blues Society of Northwest Florida jam that I attended in Pensacola, I noticed a scrolling LED message board hanging on the back wall between the drummer and bass player. They were advertising future host bands, artist events, the weekly jam, and recognizing their sponsors.

What a great idea I thought. BSCP could use a message board to display events and other BSCP announcements. So, I brought the idea to the monthly BSCP board of directors meeting. After BSCP board approval, I purchased a LED board and started programming it on my Windows laptop.

I had a few messages scrolling along with some background images. Then I attempted to program it with their Android app on my cell phone. The results were terrible, letters were deformed, pixels were mapped incorrectly, and the foreign software was too cryptic to use. I realized a better solution was needed that supported remote updates instead of making weekly updates on site at Champs. So, next day agenda, return the LED message board for a refund and find a better solution.

Then Sam Franz from Lancaster mentioned using a TV at Champs as another solution. The lightbulb went off and a whole new world of digital signage opened up. You've probably already seen digital signage at public places such as doctor office waiting rooms, fast food restaurant menus and banks. After researching multiple companies, I decided on Display Stream, a company located in California that met our price point. The technology for this digital signage solution requires Firesticks, an Internet connection, and a laptop or tablet to access their web based programming environment and cloud storage.

The Firesticks must be registered in the Display Stream system using their web interface. The 'Production' Firestick is located at Champs. The 'Test' Firestick is located in my home. There is a Display Stream app that must be downloaded to each Firestick. This app is used to stream the slides to the TV.

Their web browser development application is used to add slides, images, and links to your custom stream. After multiple iterations and testing at home, the results need to be transmitted or broadcast to the Display Stream cloud. You can designate which Firestick to use, broadcasting to the Home Test Firestick first. After broadcasting, run the Display Stream app on the Firestick. This will use the custom content that you broadcast to the cloud and will then show it on the TV. You can edit and rebroadcast as often as needed. Once content updates and testing are done, you then broadcast to the Champ Production Firestick and the stream is ready to go. Down at Champs, you need to turn on the TV and Production Firestick, then run the Display Stream app. The Champ Production Firestick will use the Display Stream cloud to display the content.

For the first attempt, we plugged the Firestick into a TV above the bar near the stage and had a successful first night. Then Jason said we could use the big screen projector TV if we bought a few cables and adapters. After getting the big screen projector configured and all hooked up we were in business. BSCP slides, images, messages, and website links are displayed and streamed every Thursday at the jam on the big screen. This is a flexible solution for making updates without being onsite at Champs. Take the Firestick and laptop with you if travelling and make updates from anywhere in the country with an Internet connection. Broadcast the new updates and that's it.

Some folks know how to turn on and turn off the Firestick and Big Screen Projector. It would help if a few more jam people understood how to use the TV remotes. Let us know if you want to volunteer as a backup. Also, if you would like to volunteer to back me up as a developer, please let me know and I will train you. You never know about that Mack truck, lol.

Thanks goes out to Jason and Champs for letting us use their Internet connection and Big Screen!

BSCP MEMBERSHIP DUES

BSCP Membership dues are increasing to \$20 for 2023.

2023 cards will be available at the Christmas Party on December 4, 2022.

The Mississippi Railroad Show and the Annual Christmas Party will continue to be free for members.



P.O Box 7453
Steelton, PA 17113

2022 BSCP MEMORIAL JAM
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
6 PM – 11 PM
HONORING OUR “DEARLY DEPARTED” JAMMERS
@
CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR AND GRILLE
300 2nd STREET, HIGHSPIRE PA
Tip Jar donations marked for the BSCP Education Fund