



BLUES NEWS

From your President...

Last column of the year. It has been a good year for BSCP, with more to come.

The annual MSRR picnic with Mark "Muleman" Massey and Billy Earheart was a big success. That was our second event at the Mechanicsburg Club picnic grounds and we look forward to more events at this venue.

We have the Saturday night (October 7th) at Champions coming up and it's looking like it's gonna be a big deal. Billy Price Band with Charlie Owen & Pocket Change opening. Hope y'all don't miss this show.

Wait! Not done yet. December 3rd, Hummelstown Fire Hall. BSCP's annual Christmas party. Food provided. Music by Tad Robinson with the Bruce Katz Band. This is a byob event, and is FREE for current BSCP members (you can join at the door for \$10, best \$10 you will ever spend.)

The Christmas party is also when we have election of President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the BSCP. Since there has not been a lot of enthusiasm by the general membership for running for these positions, we (the Board) are putting up a recommended slate to fill the offices as follows: President – Kathy Gregoire, Vice President – Mike Knott, Secretary – Andy Kehe. These fine people have stepped up and volunteered their time and energy to the task of running your blues society. Please give them your support.

I will be stepping down from my duties as BSCP president at the end of the year. Thanx to the BSCP Board of Directors for all of their efforts to help me with my presidential duties. Thanx to all the venues who play the blues, and especially thanx to all the musicians, jammers and bands that play and promote the music we all love.

Peace,
Buster



BSCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rocky Woodling – Member-at-Large

“I DON’T GIVE A SHIT”

by SHINYRIBS

A song article by Greg Hogg

Shinyribs is the name of this band, however it was originally the nickname of bandleader Kevin Russell when he did his solo shows. Along with Kevin (songwriter, lead vocals, 8 string ukulele, lead guitar and animated front man) are Winfield Cheek (keyboards, backing vocals), Jeff Brown (bass), Keith Langford (drums), The Tijuana Trainwreck Horns... Mark Wilson (saxes and flute) and Tiger Anaya (trumpet, backing vocal) and the lovely Shiny Soul Sisters... Alice Spencer and Sally Allen (backing vocals and eye candy). This band is well rehearsed and tight and Kevin’s songwriting is witty and humorous.

Shinyribs newest CD is “I Got Your Medicine” is 12 tracks of mostly Kevin’s original tunes. One of these songs that I saw performed on the live stream was a duet with Kevin Russell and Arlene Spencer. “I Don’t Give a Shit” had me laughing from start to finish.

“I Don’t Give a Shit “ – Shinyribs lyrics

(Kevin & Arlene) I don’t give a shit, like you don’t give a shit, we’re a match made in hell, don’t you see? I don’t give a shit about you, you don’t give a shit about me.

(Kevin) Nobody ever said I was a gentleman. Nobody ever said I wasn’t mean. Nobody ever said I was right in the head, Nobody ever said I fight clean.

(Arlene) Nobody ever said I was pretty. Nobody ever said that I was sweet. Some have remarked my bite is worse than my bark. Nobody ever said I was discreet.

(Kevin & Arlene) I don’t give a shit, like you don’t give a shit, we’re a match made in hell, don’t you see? I don’t give a shit about you, you don’t give a shit about me.

(Arlene) I remember our first date. (Kevin) Yeah?
You told me I was just a bait, (Kevin) Aww!
For your old girlfriend as she came walkin’ in.
I don’t think we ever even ate. (Kevin) Naw!

(Kevin) Nobody ever said we was compatible,
Nobody ever said we’s to be.
Nobody ever suggested that we should be connected
In the biblical or platonically.

(Kevin & Arlene) I don't give a shit, like you don't give a shit, we're a match made in hell, don't you see? I don't give a shit about you, you don't give a shit about me.

(Arlene) I remember that night in Nacogdoches,
 You tied me up and threw away my keys.
 I was too drunk to drive and I was glad to be alive
 But I had you arrested anyway. (Kevin) Shit!

(Kevin) I remember that night in Amarillo,
 You went up side my head with a fryin' pan.
 I was laid up for days in a hydrocodone haze.
 My forehead read "Made in Japan".

(Kevin & Arlene) I don't give a shit, like
 You don't give a shit.
 We're a match made in hell
 It's plain to see
 I don't give a shit about you.
 You don't give a shit about me.

I don't give a shit, like
 You don't give a shit.
 We're a match made in (laughter)

(Arlene) I don't give a shit about you.

(Kevin) Shit you do! I don't give a shit about me!

(Kevin & Arlene) I don't give a shit about you,
 You don't give a shit about me.
 But Baby, you're the one for me!

(Kevin) I do kinda like you!



Hear this fun song at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUFXzXjP_pw
 Hear more Shinyribs tunes here: <http://shinyribs.org/#music>

Photo of Shinyribs and "I Got Your Medicine" CD producer, Jimbo Mathis. (left)

THE JAM
by Rocky Rothrock

It was getting late and we had been searching for over an hour. Nobody we asked knew where it was, though some had heard of the place. We were about to give up and as we headed north on Cameron my buddy Tom said "Hey, I think I see a light over there under that railroad bridge!" We turned in and found cars parked all over the place by this ramshackle house and heard the music. This had to be the place. We went inside and it was PACKED, smoky and throbbing with the blues rhythm of the jam. The Lochiel Hotel.

I went back by myself three more times before I got up the courage to play. I had been playing guitar since I was 15 years old but mostly acoustic folk rock. This was something new for me and I was not familiar with the material. Watching Big Mitch, Jason Suter, Kensey Johnson and all these other great players was intimidating, but I thought maybe I could hang with them a little bit. So I got up.

I remember they went into "Thrill Is Gone" and I was playing a straight blues progression when Mike Easton turns around to me and yells "MINOR!", so I switched to all minor chords and it sounded better. (That is how little I knew about the blues!) But they all encouraged and taught me and pretty soon I was playing regularly at the jam.



Then came the flood in 2004 and they shut down the Lochiel the end of that year. Led by Tony Formica, we moved the gear to the 40&8 Club on Chambers Hill Road and played on. Crowds grew and BSCP had our own juke joint party every Thursday. Two more moves and we finally landed at Champions in Highspire.

Near as we can figure, this jam started in 1998 at the Lochiel Hotel. A small group of blues fans had decided to start a Blues Society and they asked Sonny, proprietor of the Lochiel, if they could meet there. Sonny didn't care one way or the other. Then, after the meeting, some of the musicians wanted to play some music together and Sonny said OK.

That's how it started, a bunch of friends getting together to play and listen, just for fun. And that is still what we do every Thursday, almost 20 years later! Many of the faces have changed and we have lost some dear friends over the years, but the music continues. So how did this institution survive so long? Why do the musicians and music lovers keep coming out? There are probably as many reasons as folks at the jam, but speaking solely for myself.....

Friends - When I started coming to the jam, I was playing in an acoustic duo and I knew very few musicians in the area. Through BSCP and the jam, I now can count many,

many friends among the musicians and music fans. It is truly like a big extended family or a church congregation, based on a mutual love of the music and I feel blessed to be a part of it.

Gear Heads - Like anyone with a passion for something- cars, bikes, fishing, etc; we musicians love to talk about The Gear. At the jam you will find folks who love to talk about amps, guitars, drum kits, mixing boards and all the other stuff that makes musicians hearts go pitter-pat (and empties their wallets!)

Training - One of the unique features of our jam is that you never know who you will be playing with when you arrive. It varies with the time that each musician signs up and to some extent, the luck of the draw. This creates a playing environment where you have to keep your head up and listen to each other to get the best out of your particular set. This is excellent training for improvisational musicianship that stretches your abilities and challenges you to play your best.

Quality Music - Our jam has been the genesis of many great local bands and it remains a place where some of the best musicians in the area come to see friends and explore new collaborations. It is this core of experienced players, along with many talented newcomers, that sustains the music and the jam.

So, if you love to play or listen to good music with like-minded friends and have a lot of fun, join us at our Thursday blues jam. Every Thursday 8 to 11 pm, at Champions Sports Bar in Highspire, PA. Continuously in operation for 19 years and counting!



7th ANNUAL EAST PETERSBURG

“GYPSY MOON” BLUES FESTIVAL

by Greg Hogg

On Saturday, September 2nd blues music filled the East Petersburg Community building. Mother Nature delivered a cool rainy day and the festival intended to be outdoors in the community park moved inside. The show must go on! While the weather no doubt kept the attendance down, over 100 dedicated blues fans filled the room, listened attentively and showed the performing artists their appreciation with roaring applause.



Master of Ceremonies and festival line-up coordinator, Randy Bucksner welcomed everyone at 3:00PM and introduced the Lititz based Benjamin Vo Band to begin the day's entertainment. 29 year old Benjamin Vo, lead guitar/vocals and his band mates on keyboards, drums and bass delivered a mix of blues covers and very well written and received original songs. This band set the bar high for the acts that were to follow.



Harrisburg's 21 year old Shawan and the Wonton had the audience drooling over her mix of cover and original material, her soulful vocal delivery and charming stage presence. The Wonton musicians were extremely talented, and accompanied Shawan in a well rehearsed, tight groove. Shawan Rice's East Petersburg performance followed by a later in the day show at Kipona were her last ones in Central PA for awhile as she was heading off the next morning to live in New Orleans, LA.



Randy Bucksner being a previous Philadelphian with an association with WXPB radio always brings some Philly blues talent out to the Gypsy Moon Festival each year. Our third band for the day was Philly's Bluestime, a fine gumbo of seasoned musicians from Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. Performing their driving set of original and cover tunes, Bluestime was warmly received by the roomful of blues fans who felt "rain be damned", it's Bluestime!



Local boy comes home. Now living in Philadelphia and performing with his band Ardvark Felon, Frank Velardo, a Hempfield High School graduate brought his Philly band out to Lancaster County to entertain old friends and make new ones. Their song list included some of Frank's original songs and tastefully selected blues covers. Frank is an animated performer, songwriter, guitarist and vocalist and along with his Ardvark Felon band, the blues fans welcomed Frank home.



York's dynamic power trio, Buzzard Luck wowed the crowded room with their festival rocking blues attack. Buzzard Luck is Drew Kiniry (songwriter, lead guitar, vocals), Keith Weiser (bass guitar, vocals) and Kelly McClain (drums). Working this band together since 2013, these guys are tight! Having performed at the 5th Gypsy Moon Blues Festival in 2015 and being a crowd favorite this band was selected to close this year's event.

A thank you to the Buzzard Luck Band for providing the backline and PA for the festival. Keith Weiser did the PA/ monitor mix all day and made every band sound their best. Great job, Keith!



As Buzzard Luck's set ends it morphs into the festival finale, the All Star Jam. This years jammers included Drew, Keith and Kelly of Buzzard luck, Frank Velardo of Ardvark Felon, Louis Bechtold of Blues on the Loose, Andy King and Adam Darer of Bluestime and Randy Bucksner Master of Ceremonies. Big finish and the blues faithful headed home smiling and ready for next year!



THE BLUES SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PA

HUMMELSTOWN | SUN. 3
2017
FIRE HALL | DEC. 3

249 E. Main St. Hummelstown, PA 17036

 CHRISTMAS PARTY

TAKING THE STAGE

TAD ROBINSON

backed by THE Bruce Katz Band



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

BYOB

Admission is **FREE**
to **BSCP Members!**

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



www.BSCPblues.org

We welcome side dishes and desserts

BSCP Christmas Party Talent Show *by Andy Kehe*

It's hard to resist a good two-for-one bargain during the Christmas season. People flock from all over at all hours of the morning to scarf up a sweet deal.

On Dec. 3, The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania (BSCP) offers for its annual Christmas party a killer two-for-one bargain rivaling any midnight madness sale. Only you can sleep in and still reap the harvest.

Oh, and it's free to BSCP members.

Performing at the Hummelstown Fire Hall are two national touring performers who between them have been nominated for 12 Blues Music Awards. Moreover, combined they have cut or been included on dozens of albums, either soloing or accompanying a who's-who list of blues and rock performers.

Eight time BMA nominee Tad Robinson, who rose to fame singing and playing harp on the Chicago blues circuit in the 1980s and 90s and is still drawing accolades from blues reviewers nationwide, will be accompanied by The Dave Katz Band – Katz himself a 2013 Blues Hall of Fame inductee and legendary Hammond B-3 organist and keyboardist who has toured with The Allman Brothers Band, Ronnie Earl, Duke Robillard and Delbert McClinton among others, in addition to having an impressive solo resume.



That's a mouthful, but that's a one-two punch with so much history in the genre that it's hard to sum up simply.



Memo to those who like to arrive fashionably late: take a different tactic this time. The Hummelstown Fire Hall has a finite capacity and late comers may have to be turned away.

Admission to the concert and all-you-eat potluck is free to BSCP members. Memberships and membership renewals can be purchased at the door for \$10.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. The buffet line will open at 2 p.m. and two sets of music will follow at 3 p.m.

Robinson, the lead vocalist for Dave Spector & The Bluebirds for a time, figured out he

had the pipes to express all sorts of subsets of blues music while attending the University of Indiana. But it was in Chicago while headlining regularly at Rosa's Lounge and appearing frequently at blues venues and festivals all over Chicago in the 1980s and 90s that Robinson began earning rave reviews as one of best soul blues vocalists and harp players out there.

That reputation strengthened as he ventured out onto a touring and recording career.

"Robinson places near the top of the list of finest living singers of soul blues," according to Downbeat Magazine.

In a review by Living Blues, Robison is said to have "without question" joined the ranks of those who continue to set the standards for contemporary soul blues today.

While Robinson can bring the house down with his harp playing, he regards it as a mere accompaniment to his real gift – his deep, rich, soulful voice.



"I've always looked at myself as a singer who blows a little harp on the side, because I know great harp playing," he told Downbeat Magazine. "My heroes are people like Big Walter and William Clarke and Kim Wilson and Rick Estrin ... Little Walter, James Cotton, Junior Wells, people like that. Those are the great instrumentalists, but they're also great singers, too. I've always been an admirer of that type of harp. I've worked hard at the harp, but my heart is really with singing. I look at the harp as more of an accent to my singing. Singing has always been my first love."

Robinson recorded three records with Delmark Records, including several with Spector, and four with Severn Records, including his latest "Day In The Night," which earned a 2016 Blues Music Award for Soul Album of the Year. All eight of Robinson's BMA nominations have come since 2005.

Downbeat Magazine: "Robinson is such a truly talented and versatile musician that it doesn't matter if you put the 'soul' in front of 'blues,' or whether you put the 'blues' in front of 'soul' – the result will be the same. Listen closely enough to Robinson's music and you're also likely to hear plenty of R&B and even a bit of funk working its way to the top of the mix."

Robinson won't be the first nationally renowned artist Dave Katz has worked with. Far from it.

Katz, a four-time BMA nominee, toured with the Allman Brothers from 2007-13, and has appeared on more than 70 albums while accompanying Ronnie Earl, Duke Robillard, Little Milton, Maria Muldaur and Jimmy Witherspoon, among others.

He toured with Earl for five years, during which time he played keyboard and the Hammond B-3 organ, and wrote and co-wrote on six albums.



Gregg Allman once said of Katz: “He can play jazz, blues, Bach, anything. Man, he’s a heavy.”

Katz has built an impressive resume with his own band, which includes guitarist Chris Vitarello. While playing with Earl and then Allman, he produced releases of his own, including “Live! At the Firefly,” which rose to #11 on the National Living Blues Radio chart in 2008; and then later “Homecoming,” #3 on the contemporary blues charts in 2014.

His latest CD is titled “Out From The Center,” (2016) and features Vitarello in an expanded role.

To the Memphis Flyer, Katz described his style as “The Wide World of Blues.”

“What I mean by that is that I believe, as many other blues musicians do, that blues is the feeling behind the music . . . and you know it when you hear it. Yes, it often has to do with certain chord structures and sounds, but you can really stretch it out to include a wider range of music – but if it’s coming from that ‘blues place,’ that’s what I’m all about.”

“We’re pretty extroverted,” Katz told The Ledger of Lakeland, Fla. about his band’s style. “I guess you can dance and have a party to this music. Sometimes, people think, ‘Oh, it’s a keyboard player; he must be playing intellectual jazz or something’. I think people will have fun.”

His students must be having a blast. Katz prides himself in passing on what he knows to others. From 1996-2010, he served as an associate professor at the prestigious Berklee College of Music. He earned a master’s degree in Jazz Performance at the New England Conservatory of Music as has several instructional videos on the market.



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