



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

January-March 2017

BLUES NEWS

From your President...

Hope y'all had a festive and safe New Years!

After a great Christmas Party with Johnny Rawls and the Cornlickers, BSCP is gearing up for another successful year. A few changes to make things better.

A change of venue for our picnics. We will now have the Treasurer's Picnic and the Mississippi Railroad Picnic at the Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds. I think all will be pleased. The BSCP board of directors remains mostly unchanged.

President: Buster Grubb

Vice Pres: Bob Hodgson

Secretary: Andy Kehe

Treasurer: Rocky Rothrock

Committee Chairs:	Membership: Dot Grubb
	Newsletter/website: Nina Vacante
	IBC: Greg Hogg
	Merchandise:
	Events: Mike Knott

Members At Large: Mom Ivanoff, Hannah Sherman, Sherm Smith, Rocky Woodling

Notice there's no one running the Merchandise Committee. If anyone thinks they can handle It, please get in touch with me.

As always, the Thursday night jam is going strong and is still one of the premier blues jams. Stay tuned for info on upcoming shows and events.

- 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

Billy Pierce

Shapes of Soul

Billy Pierce - Slide Guitar - Vocals
Charlie Wooten - Bass
Doug Belote - Drums
Keiko Komaki - Piano, Keys

Special Guests:
Michael Doucet - Fiddle
Jason Ricci - Harmonica
Cindy Cashdollar - Lap Steel
Mike Zito - Guitar
Bonarama - Trombones
Jeff T Watkins - Sax

Produced By Charlie Wooten

“SHAPES OF SOUL”

by Billy Pierce

CD review by Greg Hogg

“Shapes of Soul” is Newark, DE Billy Pierce’s 2016 follow up CD to “Take Me Back to the Delta” his 2013 release that I reviewed in an earlier BSCP newsletter. Once again this new CD is loaded with Louisiana flavor, a taste the Billy acquired on his multiple visits to NOLA and the Cajun bayou country. 10 of the 11 songs on this project are written by Billy Pierce and Louisiana bass guitar master Charlie Wooten handled the production end of things. This recording was done at Steve Nail’s Dockside Studio in Maurice, LA. This studio is situated on 12 acres of land in Cajun Country on the banks of the Vermilion Bayou. Along with studio use of a wide range of vintage gear, Billy like many other Dockside patrons reside onsite throughout their recording sessions.

As I had mentioned in my earlier review of “Take Me Back to the Delta”, Billy has many good friends and connections in Louisiana add that spicy flavor that Billy’s originals on “Shapes of Soul” boil in like Gulf Coast shrimp. Joining Billy’s guitar and lead vocals on this record are Charlie Wooten – bass guitar vocals, Doug Balote – drums, Keiko Komaki – piano, B3, Michael Doucet – fiddle, Jason Ricci – harmonica, Cindy Cashdollar – lap steel guitar, Bonarama Trombones – Mark Mullins, Craig Klein, Greg Hicks, Jeff T. Watkins – sax, Mike Zito – guitar, Paul Wooton – vocals. First class session work done by all!

“Paycheck to Paycheck” is a funky jazzy horn driven tune about personal finances and living on the edge without a safety net.

“Me & the Misses” features great harmonica soloing by Jason Ricci and lots of Keiko Komaki’s keyboards.

“Acadiana” originally planned as title track of this CD is loaded with Louisiana dance hall feel with Michael Doucet’s lively fiddle work. I can envision the crowded dance floor as I listen.

“Tears of Joy” is a rhythmic upbeat track feature Billy’s slide guitar mastery and then a guitar soloing by Mike Zito. A “Congo Square” sort of feel!

“Shapes of Soul” the title track is a slow pretty song with plenty of piano, I like this tune, it is relaxing to me.

“Don’t Give Up” features vocals by Charlie Wooten, slide guitar by Billy and sax soloing by Jeff T. Watkins.

“Red Dog Saloon” is another lively dance hall number featuring slide guitar by Billy and Michael Doucet’s fiddle. This one will get the dancers sweating as they reel about!

“Katrina” is a smooth jazzy piece that floats along on Jason Ricci’s harmonica work and Keiki Komaki’s B3. It is a instrumental number and a very pleasant listen.

“Iko Iko” is the cover Sugar Boy and the Cane Cutters classic. Bonarama Trombones are prominent on this song.

“Delta Queen” weaves Doug Balote’s drumming, Charlie Wooten’s bass guitar and Billy’s slide guitar and vocals into a tight fabric.

“Shapes of Soul” finishes with “PC” a flowing smooth instrumental with a nice groove of soloing. Nice finishing touch for this project.

Billy Pierce’s “Shapes of Soul” can be purchased as a CD or a download on CDBaby.com @ <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/bilypierce>. You can sample listen here also.

Now back in his hometown of Newark, DE, Billy Pierce has assembled excellent local/regional musicians to perform with in the Mid-Atlantic area. Watch for gigs to be announced and please support Billy and all live music. No better way to entertain yourself and keep the music alive!

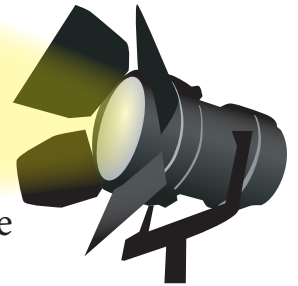




In the Spot Light...

Gary "Rocky" Rothrock

by Andrew Kehe



A man walks up at the Thursday night jam and introduces himself as Rocky. "Gary Rocky Rothrock's the name," he might say. An ominous how-do-you-do, you might think. No need to put up your dukes. They'll be no quick jabs, no hey makers coming your way unless they're in the form of a tasty blues lick or a folk-rock medley.

Rocky Rothrock, a father of three, a granddad and great granddad, might be the gentlest Rocky you'll ever meet.

"I think I'm more like Rocky the Squirrel," said the 66-year-old Williamsport native. "My friends always called me that, through high school, through college. Everybody called me that. When I got married, the minister, he'd say 'do you take this man Gary wait a minute, I'm marrying a guy named Rocky.'"

Some 15 years ago, Rocky discovered the jam at the Lochiel Hotel, learned how to hang in there musically, having never before played much blues, and soon after the jam's move to the 40&8 became a champion in the corner of the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania (BSCP). In addition to being a regular guitarists, set leader, sound board operator and jam host over the years, Rocky has served as secretary, vice president, president and treasurer of the BSCP. Almost without exception, you'll find Rocky setting up, tearing down, cleaning up, dropping off, and hauling away anything and everything that requires such attention at events, parties and jams hosted by the BSCP. If there ever was an election for Mayor of the Jam, Rocky would win in a landslide.





“I’ve always been a person that if I get involved in something, I really get involved in something,” he said. “I don’t like to hang on the fringes. Like most non-profits there’s a handful of people who do most of the work, maybe 20 to 25 people who carry the load. I wanted to be one of them. And being a musician I wanted to help out with the jam.”

As a youngster, Rocky was a pretty good ball player. He might be the only one among 485 BSCP members to have played in a game at Lamade Stadium, sight of the Little League World Series. He led his league as a 12 year old in home runs and pitching. But like a lot of players at the jam, Rocky shelved one interest in favor of the guitar. Once enough basic chords and British invasion songs were learned, garage bands sprung up. One was good enough to play at Penn State fraternity parties while Rocky was still in high school.

He eventually attended Penn State, played gigs there but by the time he graduated he had changed his preferred genre to folk-rock. He left the USDA, for which he had just started to work, for Denver in a ‘54 Chevy flatbed truck with a friend, his girlfriend and a dog to play music for a living. Reality soon set in, and what had become an acoustic duo was faced with either touring the Oklahoma-Nebraska hotel lounge circuit, or get real jobs and play on the side the stuff they really wanted to play. “It came down to do we really want to play “Tie a Yellow Ribbon” in front of drunk cowboys every night?” Rocky said.



Pennsylvania and the USDA summoned Rocky home and it was throughout the Harrisburg region that he and friend Nick entertained at coffee houses and bars for 15 years. The itch to perform never eased up and soon Rocky was gathering together Acoustic Stew, which in various configurations has been a staple at wineries and festivals for a dozen years. He made his debut on Dec. 30 at The Mill in Hershey with yet another band, Soul House, which plays a jazzier, more soulful brand of music than Acoustic Stew or anything he plays at the weekly jam.

But in the end, it's the jam on Thursday night that Rocky looks forward to the most. "It's the most fun thing I do with music," Rocky said of the Thursday jam. "When it's every week and I'm responsible for it, it can get to be a burden, but I do look forward to it. Just to be with the other musicians, and the friendships and interplay between us. I think we have some of the best players in area who come to the jam. On the right night, it's as good as any live music you're going to hear anywhere (in the region). It's a great pleasure when it clicks like that."





Jan. 21, 2017

Castlerigg Wine Shop

110 S. Hanover St, Carlisle, PA

7-9:30pm - *Special Blues Night*

Feb. 23-25

MMC21

Harrisburg, PA

Two venues TBA



March 11

Moo-Duck Brewery

79 S. Wilson Ave.

Elizabethtown, PA

5:30-8:30 PM

March 24-25

10th Annual Singer-Songwriter

Cape May, NJ

Two venues TBA



MY BSCP 2016 REFLECTIONS AND 2017 VISIONS

by Greg Hogg

As 2016 has drawn to a close I sit and reflect on the busy year the Blues Society of Central PA (BSCP) has had. We brought a lot of blues of varied styles into the mid-state.

In early March we featured 84 year old Mississippi delta singer/guitarist Leo “Bud” Welsh and his accompanying drummer, Dixie Street into Champions Sports Bar for a taste “old school” delta blues. There are fewer of these peers that learned the blues from the originators of the genre left each year, and we can learn much about the blues from them.

Mid-April the spring winds brought the star studded Golden State Lone Star Revue. This jewel of an act is led by California blues harp/singer, Mark Hummel and includes guitarist/singer Little Charlie Baty, former leader of California’s Little Charlie and the Nightcats and Anson Funderburgh, the guitarist/singer of Texas based Anson Funderburgh and the Rockets. Along with their traveling masterful rhythm section they scorched the Champions stage.

Sunday of Memorial Day weekend brings the fabulous BSCP Treasurers Picnic at the Shellsville VFW Picnic Grounds. Blues music filled the woods with the talents of Keith Kailian, Silver Junction, Don Judy & Tom Cook, Ben Brandt & Co., Roger Hammer & John Drudul, Don Johnson Project, Tomm Dunn, Acoustic Stew, Gene Gibson and Buzzard Luck. The beer taps flowed, water, soda and coffee for the abstainers.....and there was a little food.....tons of it and it was fabulous! Chicken, burgers & dogs, salads & sides and tasty desserts. Nobody leaves a BSCP catered event hungry! Thanks to everyone that makes this event so wonderful every year!

Summertime, mid-June...and the BSCP pitches in to help Dauphin County Parks & Recreation to make Saturday of the Dauphin County Music & Wine Festival, Blues Day. Wake Up Call, Delta Blues Duo, Jackie Scott & The House Wreckers, Buzzard Luck, Carolyn Wonderland, Acoustic Stew and Mingo Fishtrap where the bill in 2016. The music was as hot as the weather that day!

In July we stoke up the ol’ BSCP locomotive and bring artists up from the Mississippi delta for our free to members Mississippi Railroad Picnics. This year’s travelers were Lightnin’ Malcolm, guitarist/singer and his drummer Stud. After showing us how the blues is now being played in Mississippi, our BSCP jammers got to join them on stage. Once again the woods at Shellsville were alive with blues music!

In early September the BSCP helped East Petersburg’s 5th Gypsy Moon Blues Festival with a funding donation and we enjoyed the day hearing Blues on the Loose, Wake Up Call, Nate Myers & the Aces, Laura Cheadle & the Family Band and the Balkun Brothers. Beautiful day for a free festival. Thanks, East Petersburg!

No tricking, our BSCP October treat was a wonderful Sunday afternoon show on the Champions stage. Don Johnson Trio and Syracuse NY's Carolyn Kelly Band wowed everyone in attendance.

A BSCP year is never complete until we have our annual BSCP Member Christmas Party which is free to our members. For our 3rd year running, this great party was once again held at the Hummelstown Fire Co. banquet room and this year's dance floor filling entertainment was provided by Mississippi soul/bluesman Johnny Rawls, backed by our own central PA juke joint rockers, The Cornlickers. The plentiful buffet meal was prepared by our BSCP kitchen volunteers and grew by additional covered dish sides, salads and desserts donated by generous members. Ham, pulled pork, meatballs and so much more....nobody leaves a BSCP party underfed!

Now, all this sounds like a lot. But wait...there's more! As many of us know, the BSCP has been jamming nearing every Thursday evening for 18 years. Currently our jam home is Champions Sport Bar at 300 2nd Street, Highspire, PA. The 1st jam hits off at 8 PM and the jams go on until the last of the faithful need to go home. If you've never joined us on a jam night, you're missing the best and biggest blues party you can find anywhere. 52 Thursday jams a year with free admission (although donations are appreciated).

So....these are my reflections the BSCP's 2016. Now let's look ahead into the New Year.

As the BSCP Board did not receive any new nominations to hold an election, the 2016 Board members have agreed to continue being the guidance of the society and the stewards of the BSCP treasury (it is money that belongs to us all and the Board uses it judiciously to best fulfill the BSCP mission statement). This being said... the BSCP Board members, many with years and years of serving, would hope that some new blood would come aboard to take the reigns and move this society on for years to come. Please consider stepping up to volunteer your help on committees and at events and think about future Board position involvement.

In 2017 the BSCP Board hopes to continue hosting shows throughout the year and the Thursday jams will click off like clockwork.

Our BSCP Treasurers Picnic and Mississippi Railroad Picnic will be moving to a new venue in 2017. The availability of Shellsville VFW Picnic Grounds was questionable so our 2017 BSCP picnics will be held at the Mechanicsburg Club Picnic Grounds on the West Shore. We are excited about this move because this new venue is larger, better equipped and has plenty of parking.) 80 Glendale Drive Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. (http://www.themechanicsburgclub.com/?page_id=15)

Preliminary contact has begun with Dauphin County Parks & Recreation to help secure great blues acts for the Music & Wine Festival's Saturday Blues Day.

As BSCP members and blues music lovers, we will keep ourselves well entertained in 2017. We will continue to do all this while keeping our yearly membership fee, treasurers picnic price, and our show admissions very reasonably priced. However, to keep all of this affordable to all, we need our members and guests to come to the shows we feature, the big May Treasurers picnic and to attend and to pitch a couple of bucks in the donation jar at the jam. All of the BSCP sponsored events are priced nearly 50% of what comparable events are sold for elsewhere. Please enjoy the fun and high quality entertainment we provide our area and please bring a friend or two that have never yet known of the great time we have together! The more, the merrier! And the better we fund these events, the more of them we can offer.

You can get current and past BSCP info by using our website: www.bscpblues.org Lots of pics of past BSCP events on the "Photo" page. See the fun! More BSCP info available at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bscpblues> and at https://www.facebook.com/bscpblues/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf.

Happy New Year!

In memoriam...

A special BSCP thanks for the memorial contribution in memory of Murray Huber who passed November 17, 2016, on behalf of William Huber's friends and co-workers at NAVSUP FLC Norfolk, Contracting Code 215, 5450 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA.

- *Buster*

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