



# BLUES NEWS

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW (RETURNING) PRESIDENT...

The Holidays are a time to reflect back on the year and to give thanks for all the blessings that we enjoy. It is a good time to share the love with friends and family and to acknowledge those who made the year brighter through their hard work and good cheer.

First, I want to thank Marianna Doherty for her wonderful service to BSCP this past year. As President, she brought a new energy and fresh ideas to our Board. Her first challenge was to direct our search for a new home for our jam when Liquid announced they were closing. I think all would agree that our move to Champions was a step up and our jam has been enjoyed by a new group of music fans as a result. Marianna decided not to run for a second term, but I know she will continue to be active with BSCP and we are very glad of that.

I also want to thank the new folks who have stepped forward to help me as I begin another year as President. Bob Hodgson is our new Secretary and his wisdom and organizational experience will be invaluable to us all. Rocky Woodling has agreed to chair the Public Relations Committee and has already produced some great promotional efforts, like the poster for our Christmas Party. Mike Garrison will be our new chairman of the Merchandise Committee and we look forward to getting some new merchandise for our members and friends. And, of course, thanks to the steadfast members of our Board - Virginia Ivanoff, Dot & Buster Grubb, Nina Vacante, Greg Hogg, Hannah Sherman, George Carver, Dale Roat, and most especially Bob Emrich, who has agreed to stay on another year as Treasurer.

And I really want to thank a group of unsung heroes who do so much to keep the blues alive—our Thursday Jam Hosts. They are Ben Brandt, George Bressler, George Carver, Dave Collman, Marianna Doherty, Don Johnson, Pete Netznik, Dale Roat, Rick Smith and yours truly. Without these volunteers our jam would not exist and I believe the entire future of BSCP would be in jeopardy. These brave souls come out on schedule every Thursday and endure the slings and arrows of special requests, illegible names, managing volume issues, no-show players, and downright animosity at times. At best, it is like herding 30 cats! I have recently received a number of complaints regarding the jam host and my response is always, "Did you talk to the host?" These are nice people who are doing the best they can to be fair to all the players who sign up. So, if something happens at the jam that you do not understand, please seek out and talk to the host. (And be nice!) The host's name is posted on the upper left corner of the white board and I am sure they will do whatever they can to resolve any problem you may have. And if you believe you could do a better job than they do, we would welcome you as another volunteer jam host to help us out!

I am looking forward to another great year for the Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania. We are already finalizing the acts for the Fort Hunter Music & Wine Festival with Dauphin County and are hoping to

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bring in more shows like the “Women in Blues” show we had last fall. We plan to get our acoustic jam started back up again early in the year and continue our annual Treasurer’s Picnic and Mississippi Railroad events.

So, I want to close by thanking all of our members who sustain BSCP through their memberships, volunteer efforts and attendance at our events. I count being a member of this diverse and quirky “family” as one of my greatest blessings.

Rocky

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT...

Happy New Year, everyone!!

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all your love and support over the last year as I served as President of this great organization in 2013. It was a great privilege and honor.

We survived another relocation of our jam from Liquid to Champions, and what a great move this has been. Thank you to Jason, Tyler and the Champions staff for giving us such a wonderful new home, and thank you all for supporting this move.

Our BSCP board is going to be even better in 2014 with the return of our beloved Rocky Rothrock as President, and the addition of three great board members: Bob Hodgson as Secretary (Bob plays bass at the jams), Rocky Woodling as PR chair (Rocky is a great graphic artist and plays harmonica at the jams – we’ve dubbed him “R2”), and Mike Garrison as Merchandise chair. What a great new team!

You’ll continue to see me at all of our events, as well as playing bass and violin at the jams and playing with “Acoustic Stew.” I wish you and your family many blessings as we start this brand new year.

God bless,  
Marianna Doherty

## BSCP Board of Directors

President: Gary “Rocky” Rothrock - Chair, Jam Committee and Bylaws Committee

Vice President: Buster Grubb

Secretary: Bob Hodgson

Treasurer: Bob Emrich

Dot Grubb – Chair, Membership Committee

Greg Hogg – Chair, IBC Committee

Nina Vacante – Chair, Newsletter Committee, and Webmaster

Mike Garrison – Chair, Merchandise Committee

Rocky Woodling - Chair, Public Relations Committee

Virginia “Mom” Ivanoff – Member-at-Large

Hannah Sherman – Member-at-Large

Dale Roat - Member-at-Large

George Carver - Member-at-Large



# CD REVIEW

## TRUDY LYNN *"Royal Oaks Blues Café"* *featuring Steve Krase*

*by Gregg Hogg*

From time to time the BSCP receives CDs and promo packages from booking agencies looking for gigs for their artists. A fair amount of these are passed along to me to look over and listen to with the intention being that I write up a CD review for our

BSCP newsletter. Lucky me!! I get to hear lots of great blues artists that I've not previously known or heard. The most recently received CD is Trudy Lynn's 2013 release of "Royal Oaks Blues Café".

First, a little bit of background of Trudy Lynn. Living in Houston Texas since her birth in 1947, Trudy Lynn has made her living singing, screaming, shouting and testifying American blues and soul music since she began her career in the mid-1960's as a singer for the great Albert Collins. After working with various other groups she released her first recording as an artist of her own right in 1989, "Trudy Sings the Blues", followed by many more albums through the years bringing us to this, her 14th.

"Royal Oaks Blues Café" features 11 tracks, according to the P.R. release some of which were Trudy's researched and handpicked songs originally written in the 1920's and 1930's. Along with Trudy Lynn's strong vocals, teamed with famed blues guitarist John Del Toro Richardson, this CD features the excellent harmonica work by Houston's Steve Krase of the rocking blues band Steve Krase & The In Crowd.

Track 1: "Confessin' The Blues" written in the 1940's by Kansas City, Missouri's Jay McShann is a prime example of Trudy's testifying the blues along with Steve's Krase's excellent harmonica accompaniment.

Track 2: "Play The Honky Tonks" written in 1945 by Don Robey, a Houston, TX songwriter, music producer and entrepreneur, features honky tonk piano playing and Trudy singing that she 'will play the high class joints, will play the low class joints and will even play the honky tonks...the hole in the wall'.

Track 3: "Feel It" is a smooth slow blues about the thrill of being in love

Track 4: "Every Side Of Lonesome" penned by Trudy Lynn is a rocking 12 bar blues song of the lonesomeness felt after a broken romance.

Track 5: "Country Man Blues"...a song Trudy sings about the type of man she's looking for.. 'a man with a whole lotta energy'!

Track 6: "Street Walkin' Daddy" was a hit song in 1950 by Margie Day & The Griffin Brothers, Trudy sings of the heartbreak of loving a cheating man.

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Track 7: "Red Light" is a fast harmonica driven , Trudy Lynn shouting, rocking number with a swing-like groove and is about being a jilted lover.

Track 8: "I'm Gonna' Put You Down" is a slow blues tune, heavy of piano and harmonica and Trudy Lynn singing of retribution upon leaving an ex-lover for a new one.

Track 9: "Down In Memphis" .. a blues rocking shuffle by Trudy Lynn about her love of working the clubs on Beale Street.

Track 10: "Effervescent Daddy" written and recorded by Eloise Bennett in the 1920's has Trudy Lynn crooning about finding the man of her dreams. A slow syncopated groove of piano and harmonica moves this tune along.

Track 11: "Whip It To A Jelly" written by Clara Smith in 1926 is the last track on this excellent CD and Trudy Lynn covers this old 12 bar blues tune of sexually suggestive dancing....'whip it to a jelly, stir it in the hole... good jelly roll'!

Anyone else listening to any great blues? Share your favorites with up by writing a short review and sending it by email to Nina Vacante, our Newsletter/Website Chair at [cat0303@comcast.net](mailto:cat0303@comcast.net) for inclusion in an upcoming BSCP Newsletter.



**Trudy Lynn at the House of Blues Bash, December 14**

# THE HISTORY OF THE MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD



The Mississippi Railroad was conceived by Dale Wise and Dave Groninger of Harrisburg's own Cornlickers who, after traveling to Clarksdale, Mississippi, and playing and recording there numerous times, decided to expose Pennsylvania to some of the last, real blues artists. The Cornlickers consist of Wise (vocals and drums), Groninger (guitar), Bobby Gentilo (guitar), and Tony Ryder (bass).

The first event was held at the 40 & 8 with "Cadillac" John Nolden and Bill Abel. Nolden was in his 80's at the time and had never left the county of his birth. To give you an example of how they do it in Mississippi, he told his wife he was going "down to the corner to play some blues" and ended up in Harrisburg with nothing but the clothes on his back and his harmonica. After playing gospel in his early years with his three brothers and blues with his guitarist brother, Jesse James Nolden, he stopped performing except for occasional solos at church until 1970 when he was inspired to take up the blues again to help alleviate the pain he felt after his wife abruptly left him. He bought a harmonica from the Simmons drug store in Cleveland, MS, and "went to hummin' a little then...I just couldn't hardly hold it back." In the nineties he performed with guitarist Monroe Jones who introduced him to guitarist Bill Abel. They have performed regularly at venues in the Delta area, as well as at the King Biscuit Blues Festival, The Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival, the Highway 61 Blues Festival, and the Yazoo Blues Festival. Abel has played with blues legends such as Honeyboy Edwards, Henry Townsend, Hubert Sumlin, Paul "Wine" Jones, Sam Carr, Terry "Harmonica" Bean, and Big George Brock. Abel says it has been his privilege to play authentic Delta blues with many bluesmen in different settings from juke joints to blues festivals across the Delta, the Chicago blues Festival, and all around the United States, Belgium, Italy, England, Wales and Switzerland. Nolden's most recent CD, Red's Juke Joint Sessions, Volume 1, "Cadillac" John Nolden and the Cornlickers, was recorded at Red's Lounge in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Big Jack Johnson, described by Paul Evans in Rolling Stone magazine as "Mississippi Delta authentic; his songs sweat with grown-up hurt." Big Jack Johnson, of Clarksdale, Mississippi, had a very special personal relationship with Central Pennsylvania for many years when he used to play at several venues in the area while touring the country and then connected with Dale Wise, who toured in the United States, Scandinavia and Europe with him. That relationship was the impetus for the concept of the Mississippi Railroad. Big Jack Johnson was a triple threat – singer, songwriter, guitar player – when you heard him on guitar you knew it.

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was his distinctive playing. He was a member of the Jelly Roll Kings, along with Frank Frost and Sam Carr, who have been described as the quintessential Delta blues trio. Johnson played juke joints and festivals from Chicago to Maine and from France to China, but was never happier than when playing at his hometown juke joint, Red's Lounge. His last three CDs, *Juke Joint Saturday Night*, *Katrina*, and *Big Jack's Way*, were recorded with the Cornlickers.



Terry "Harmonica" Bean

Appearing with Big Jack Johnson one year were Terry "Big T" Williams (vocals and guitar) and Terry "Harmonica" Bean (vocals, guitar and harmonica). Williams has played with many Delta bluesmen, including Wesley "Junebug" Jefferson, and continues to keep the blues alive. Bean came up in a blues world filled with country juke joints and late night house parties. A lifelong resident of Pontotoc, Mississippi, Bean first heard downhome blues at home on Bean Hill. His father, Eddie Bean, sang and played blues guitar and prior to Terry's birth traveled with an electric blues band. "I always did love the sound of the blues," he says. "Ever since I was a little bitty boy, that's the music

I heard. My daddy used to play with BB King, but he had to stay home and couldn't go on the road. My folks died without hearing me really playing the blues, but they knew I could do it." Terry has maintained a busy performance schedule as both a solo artist and with a band. He has performed at festivals across the nation and in Europe. He has performed more times than anyone else for the Mississippi Railroad and continues to wow his audiences. His last three CDs, *Two Sides of the Blues*, *Hill Country Blues with a Big Sound*, and *Rock This House Tonight* were recorded with the Cornlickers.

Lightnin' Malcolm was another one of our early rail riders and music has always been part of his heart and soul. From the moment he discovered an old raggedy guitar with a couple of strings and a cassette of Muddy Waters his life and the music world would change forever. Malcolm's journey began in Southeast Missouri but it wasn't until he settled in North Mississippi that he had a musical epiphany. He was drawn to the hill country blues first made famous by Fred McDowell and later R. L. Burnside, Junior Kimbrough and Jessie Mae Hemphill. "I first came to Mississippi in about 1993 and fell in love with the music and the people here. It was a spiritual thing. When I heard the fife and drums and hill country music it really touched me because that was the closest thing to the music I was hearing in my head". After performing for our Mississippi Railroad he eventually joined forces with blues royalty Cedric Burnside, and they toured the globe and won the 2009 Blues Music Award for Best Debut Artist. Malcolm has now teamed up with Cameron Kimbrough, grandson of blues legend Junior Kimbrough.

Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, blues guitarist, vocalist and Bentonia, Mississippi native is the proprietor of one of the oldest juke joints in Mississippi, "The Blue Front" in Bentonia, which he took over in 1970 after the death of his father. Holmes is a practitioner and advocate of a distinctive blues style from his hometown whose most famous proponent was blues pioneer Nehemiah "Skip" James. Holmes, who never actually met James, studied the music of Jack Owens, another notable Bentonia based artist who shared James' style. He is credited with promoting blues through the founding in 1972 of the Bentonia Blues Festival. Holmes, who normally works as an educator, has traditionally been a somewhat reluctant performer, but has enjoyed the opportunity to share his music and talk about the Bentonia tradition. "You don't get nervous when you're doing your hobby," he says of performing.

Another icon of the Delta, Big George Brock (harmonica and vocals), performed for us in 2008. As a member of the "older" generation of bluesmen, he continues to keep the blues alive in the Delta and around the country. He began blowing harp when he was eight years old, so he's been around, at times sharing stage or studio with the likes of Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Reed, Lee Kizart, Albert King, Hubert Sumlin, Big Bad Smitty, Jimbo Mathus, Watermelon Slim, Steven Seagal and others. He has toured the United Kingdom, Italy, Switzerland and France where crowds went crazy for his energetic, honest-to-Muddy performances. He is featured in the award-winning documentary *M for Mississippi*. David "Honeyboy" Edwards, born June 28, 1915 in Shaw, Mississippi, was one of the last living links to Robert Johnson when he performed for us in 2010, and one of the last original acoustic Delta blues players. He was a living legend and his story is truly part of history. Honeyboy's life has been intertwined with almost every major blues legend, including Robert Johnson, Charlie Patton, Big Joe Williams, Rice "Sonny Boy Williamson" Miller, Howlin' Wolf, Peetie Wheatstraw, Sunnyland Slim, Lightnin' Hopkins, Big Walter, Little Walter, Magic Sam and Muddy Waters, just to name a few.

Louis Arzo "Gearshifter" Youngblood, is a Jackson-based guitarist and vocalist who performs a unique blend of country blues, modern soul-blues, and everything in between. Raised in a rural environment, he learned the rudiments of guitar from his great aunt Essie Mae Youngblood. She taught him several of the songs he performs today, including the traditional folk song "Rabbit in a Log" and the Tommy Johnson song "Bye Bye Blues". Essie Mae was influenced directly by Johnson, one of the most significant bluesman in the Jackson area, who married her sister Rosa in the 1930's. Johnson had a profound influence in the area, including Louis' grandfather and namesake, Arzo Youngblood. Recently Louis has been performing as a solo acoustic artist, creating a distinctive mix by blending the country blues he learned as a youth with soul/blues classics and electric blues standards. He has performed festivals from Mississippi to Italy.

The Blues Society of Central Pennsylvania is truly blessed to be able to experience the living history of the blues with the unique Mississippi Railroad.

# Volunteer for BSCP!

If interested, email  
[bluesmembership@gmail.com!](mailto:bluesmembership@gmail.com)



# A LOOK BACK AT 2013 AND THE BSCP

*by Greg Hogg*



As I sit here reflecting in my mind of the great year that the BSCP has given me (us) through 2013, I am thankful to be involved with such a great organization and the wonderful folks ....the blues family that brings such joy and fellowship to my life.

The BSCP brought in 2013 with new President, Marianna Doherty and a New Years Eve Party at the Sheraton Inn featuring entertainment by Mikey Jr. & Stone Cold Blues. Off to a good start!

As the winter went on the BSCP continued hosting both our weekly Thursday night electric jams at Liquid 891 and our Tuesday acoustic jams at the Blue Front Lounge. Then Wham!! Wrench in the old spokes!

Our jam venues both became unavailable for our use. For many organizations these obstacles would be crippling....not the BSCP! A dedicated team of hard working members moved and secured our jam gear and merchandise for safe keeping, the BSCP Board members burned up the internet to brainstorm ideas to get us a new home and a committee was formed to search out and broker deal options with many prospective venues. Upon receiving this committee's report and recommendation, the BSCP Board agreed the Champions Sports Bar in Highspire, PA was to be our new home. Noise ordinance complaints by a neighbor of the Blue Front Lounge in Steelton, PA have continued to cause a hiatus in our acoustic jam but a move of the Blue Front Lounge to another location is in the works and we're hopefully optimistic that blues music will resume there in early 2014.

As the chill of winter left central PA and warmth of the sun brought springtime, it was time for picnicking and festivals! These are things that our blues society is very good at! Sunday, May 26th brought about the BSCP's Annual Treasurers Picnic at Shellsville VFW Picnic Grounds near Grantville, PA. Seven great central PA blues bands and five central PA acoustic blues acts graciously brought us their talents to entertain us and our BSCP Blues Angels in aprons and contributions of generous members once again filled our buffet with a feast that was simply fantastic !

With nice weather, we don't let much grass grow under our feet until it's time to work along with the Dauphin County Parks & Recreation Dept. to bring "blues day" to the Dauphin County Music & Wine Festival on Saturday, June 15th. Thousands of folks enjoyed this day with music by Acoustic Stew, JT Thompson & Andy Tolins, Gretchen Emery & Dirty Boots, Nate Myers & The Aces, The Nick Moss Band, Blue Light Special and Rick Estrin and the Nightcats. What a great day of music that was!!

By mid-July, we're ready for some downhome juke joint music and another picnic at Shellsville VFW Picnic Grounds. Our Mississippi friend, Terry "Harmonica" Bean and our own Cornlickers set the mood for our Mississippi Railroad Picnic early in the afternoon and the party continued through the day with Terry jamming with many of our talented BSCP jam musicians. Boy, do we have fun, or what?

Throughout the summer our blues jam thrived at our new home at Champions and we enjoyed the big open garage door opening the front of the club to the beautiful outside courtyard. We gathered weekly to enjoy great blues jam, food, drink and fun with our friends. As a special treat the BSCP featured a Friday evening



outdoor blues show of harmonica, vocals and percussion by Oxford, MS's Adam Gussow on Champions' patio. From spring through fall many BSCP members make daytrips and vacations to attend blues festival far and wide. You just never know where you'll see a friendly face wearing a BSCP tee shirt! On Saturday, October 5th the BSCP supported the 3rd Annual East Petersburg Gypsy Moon Blues Festival in nearby Lancaster County with a sponsorship donation, a couple of our central PA bands on stage and several dozen BSCP members on hand to enjoy the music.

The BSCP Board, having deciding to take a year off from holding our IBC event kept busy to bring "Women of the Blues" to Champions Sports Bar on Saturday, October 26th. Featuring a one-hour set by the Ann Kersetter Band, a 1 hour set by Miss T & the Mosquitoes and an incredible 90 minute performance by the Deanna Bogart Band to a packed house, everyone that attended was blown away by this show. The two-song encore of the evening was incredible as Deanna invited Ann and Miss T to join her onstage. Videos of these 2 encores can be found on Youtube. Thank you, President Marianna for these!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HulFkqRatI> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPJOupWyJYw>

Sunday, December 1st, the BSCP held our annual Christmas Party at Chambers Hill Fire Hall. Once again an unbelievably wonderful meal was prepared and served up buffet style and I can assure you, nobody left there hungry! Another special treat that day was the horn driven Chicago blues and soul music of Big James & The Chicago Playboys. Many BSCP members danced their dinner calories away and another fun day was had by all.

I am anxiously looking forward to the 2014 BSCP activities and look forward to working with President Rocky Rothrock, Vice President Buster Grubb, Secretary Bob Hodgson, Treasurer Bob Emrich, new BSCP Board members Rocky Woodling and Mike Garrison and all returning BSCP Project Chairs and Members-at-Large. I'll close by saying that many hands make light work, and volunteering to help is more a reward than a chore. I'll look forward to seeing you all in 2014!

Photo slideshows of most BSCP events can be seen on the BSCP website ([www.bscpblues.org](http://www.bscpblues.org)).

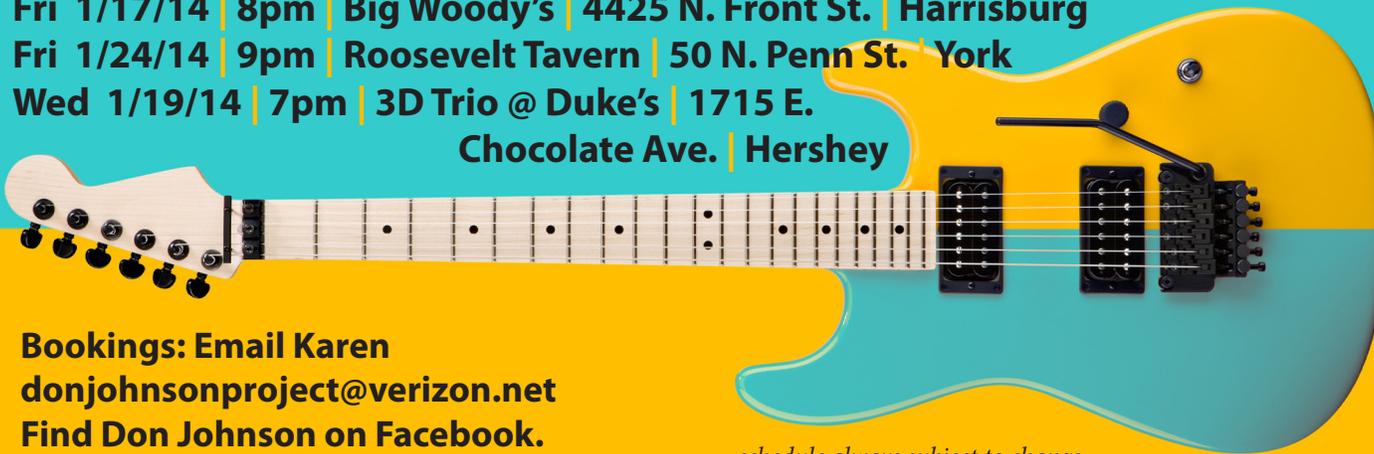


# DON JOHNSON PROJECT

Sat 1/11/14 | 9pm | Snapper's | 120 E. Allen St. | Mechanicsburg  
Thu 1/16/14 | 8pm | 3D Trio @ Rock Bass | 461 S. Front St. | Wormleysburg  
Fri 1/17/14 | 8pm | Big Woody's | 4425 N. Front St. | Harrisburg  
Fri 1/24/14 | 9pm | Roosevelt Tavern | 50 N. Penn St. | York  
Wed 1/19/14 | 7pm | 3D Trio @ Duke's | 1715 E. Chocolate Ave. | Hershey

Bookings: Email Karen  
donjohnsonproject@verizon.net  
Find Don Johnson on Facebook.

*schedule always subject to change*



# BSCP Electric Blues Jam

Champions Sports Bar • Highspire, PA

## Every Thursday!

from 8 to midnight-ish.

friends, food & blues.  
what more do you need?

Blues Society of Central PA  
P.O. Box 453  
Steelton, PA 17113

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