



The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

Preserving the traditions of Folk Music, Folk Lore, and Gentle Folk Ways

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

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November 2008

November 11 Showcase – Mike Ball

by Mike

There are those who will tell you Mike Ball is something of a Renaissance man. There are also those who would tell you he was born during the Renaissance. With the exception of not being able to play a first position B-flat chord on the guitar, there are few things he won't at least try.

A native Baltimorean, Mike roamed the East Coast in his youth—from Maryland, to New Jersey, to Florida, to South Carolina and to New York. Rumors that these moves were due to what has become known as the Aberdeen Incident are completely false. After showing some early promise in baseball and football; in high school, Mike's athletic interest turned toward pole vaulting. Unfortunately, he literally peaked early in life and it has been downhill ever since.

After high school, Mike and his buddy Leo built a raft to float down the Mississippi River. Starting at Lake Itasca they abandoned the leaking vessel in St. Paul and hitchhiked to Key West. Details of this trip remain sketchy and any statutes of limitation have long since expired. To earn a (mostly) honest dollar he turned his hand toward crabbing, making gaskets in a factory, apprenticed as a Tupperware repairman and drove nails as a carpenter. He holds the distinction of being the only fingerstyle guitar player alive in the 1960s who did not study with the Rev. Gary Davis. He also never claimed to have been at or even considered going to Woodstock. This level of honesty obviously disqualifies him from holding any elected office.

Although Mike resisted entering mainstream society, eventually he worked his way through college and settled down with a real job. Ever restless, he took up rock climbing, sea kayaking, canoeing, and woodworking to escape the tedium of the white-bread suburban lifestyle. He has now settled down to much tamer pursuits—riding and training horses. He is getting much better at the horse thing; his unscheduled dismounts are becoming a thing of the past and aren't even worth mentioning – so they will not be mentioned. He's got a big diesel truck with West Virginia tags, a horse trailer, and of course, a horse to prove it.

But through it all, there's been one constant—playing music. Mike first took up guitar in his teens, and later the banjo and mandolin. He has a wide range of musical influences from Pat Donohue to Mike Dowling (“wide range” being a relative term). It is rumored he did spend time with Fuzzy Mandeville during the winter of 1969 learning the guitar chops he so deftly displays today, even at his now advanced age. For his showcase, rumor has it he will play a Bach cantata, a fugue from Mozart's Requiem in D minor, Bill Monroe's version of *Working on a Building*, *Wild Thing* by the Troggs plus a few other surprises.

And, as the song says, “He never told one lie that was not his own”.

Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart

Tickets \$12 (\$11 Members)

The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:15 PM – November 18, 2008
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart met for the first time 1991 at a songwriters night in Nashville TN. They knew that night it was one of them things that are just meant to be. They were married in 1992 while raising 2 children from Stacey's first marriage. **Stacey Earle's** first show was on an arena stage in Sydney, playing rhythm guitar in her brother's band. Stacey appeared on Steve Earle and The Dukes recordings, "*The Hard Way*" in 1990, "*Shut Up And Die Like An Aviator*" in 1991, and "*Transcendental Blues*" in 2000. She spent about a year and a half on tour with her brother, and then returned to Nashville to start a career of her own as a country/folk

singer/songwriter. It was there she found she had a lot more to learn, a risk to take and a lot of dues to pay. She would later land a Staff writing position with the Publishing Company Ten Ten Music. She will tell you it is an art in itself to write for other artist, but before that she would meet her husband Mark Stuart. "I learned almost all the best of my musicianship from Mark exploring a wide range of influences, from blues to folk to rockabilly to country. Between the two of us we had a lot to show and tell. We still learn from each other day in and out. A great songwriter and musician never should stop learning."

Mark Stuart went to the finest of Music schools. Mark started his schooling listening and admiring his uncle's guitar playing and his Dads fiddling. Learning and listening to the greats, Chet Atkins, Merle Travis, John Fogerty, The Beatles and many more Players and singers of all genres. He would find himself playing in the School of Honky Tonks and Beer Joints in and around Nashville by age 15 in his Dad's band. By managing to stay awake in high school after playing late nights polishing every riff and bend and vocal chord he would go on by age 17 to form his own band, make a record and still find the time to play on the road as lead guitar and vocals for acts like **Freddy Fender** and more taking him into his 20's. Mark truly never in his life ever said there was nothing else he wanted to be when he grew up. He is truly one to live and breathe every word he says. Mark was in off the road when he met Stacey and that very night that he would play the first note of her music never leaving her side. Mark still somehow found the time to work on his own music recording his solo record and touring. And the love of his new family, Mark as well spent some time in the Dukes in the 1990s. Like Earle, he recalls it as a time of glamour, appearing on "**The Tonight Show with Jay Leno**," and MTV. "I had someone tuning my guitar, strapping on my guitar," he said. They've gone on to release their Duo albums: "*Never Gonna Let You Go*" in 2003, "*S&M Communion Bread*" in 2005 and "*Love from Stacey and Mark*" in 2008 on Gearle Records. In addition, each remains an individual solo artist with Mark Stuart's "*Left of Nashville*" and Stacey Earle's "*The Ride*" due later 2008.

Stacey and Mark will be joining us right after their latest international tour of England, The Netherlands, Germany and Ireland. Folk music publications have been lauding them for the past year. Let's get a chance to see why at The Folk Club!



Upcoming Performers

<http://www.musi-cal.com/search?key=venue&value=Folk+Club+of+Reston-Herndon>

Anne Hills – January 27, \$12/\$11 – Kate Wolf Memorial Award and Kerrville Outstanding Female Vocalist winner
Sparky and Rhonda Rucker – February 13, 2007, \$12/\$11 – Sparky Rucker is an internationally recognized folklorist, musician, historian, storyteller, and author. Rhonda Rucker is an accomplished harmonica, piano player and vocalist.

MUSICAL NOTES

ArtSpace Herndon Events

Herndon's new art center, ArtSpace Herndon, is holding a November art exhibit that will feature art of the Shenandoah Valley. As a part of this overall exhibit, music and slides shows will be presented on the weekends. **Madeline McNeal** will be performing in concert on the evening of November 9th. Madeline features wonderful songs about the Valley in her performances, and this should be an exciting evening. Tickets for the concert evening will be \$15.
<http://www.MadelineMacNeil.com>

NERFA Conference – Nov. 13-16

The **Northeast Regional Folk Alliance** is holding its 14th annual conference November 13th through 16th at the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson, NY. Conference activities will include workshops, panel discussions, seminars, exhibits and showcases. Those interested in finding out more can check out the website at www.nerfa.org

NERFA is one regional group member in the **North American Folk Music & Dance Alliance**. The group will be hosting the 21st Annual Folk Alliance International Conference in Memphis, Tennessee February 18-22, 2009. **Roger McGuinn** will be the keynote speaker, and **Phil Ochs** will be among the musicians honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award. More info will be forthcoming as the conference date nears.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

That's right – they don't just play at The Folk Club!

T.M Hanna, www.birdphluph.com

Somos El Mar, www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Ron Goad – hosting the following SAW events:

- Every Monday 7:30pm, SAW-BSA-BMI Variety Showcases at Brewer's Alley, Frederick, MD.
<http://www.myspace.com/roddeacey>
- 2nd Thursday each month 7:00pm, SAW-BMI concerts at The Athenaeum, Old Town Alexandria.
<http://NVFAA.org>
- 3rd Thursday and 4th Tuesday each month 7:00-11pm, SAW-BMI Variety Showcase at Bangkok Blues, Falls Church, VA. <http://www.bangkokblues.com>

Contact Ron at MisterGoad@aol.com

Scott Malyszka

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/scottmalyszka>
<http://www.feelthewag.com>

Beth Benedetto

Online at www.cookstudios.com. Click on Celtic Juice, YouTube, selection #1: "Sean-nós singing with Beth Benedetto".

Demetrios Liadis

www.myspace.com/demetriosjam or call 571-247-8969

Tomy Wright

Contact Tomy at tomy@tomywright.com, 301-637-5707
www.tomywright.com

Chelle Fulk (with Keltish)

Contact Chelle at 703-471-1968, or check out the website at: <http://www.keltish.com>

Doris Justis

<http://www.dorisjustis.com> - Folk, original, and contemporary music

Lee Bock

<http://www.leebocksongs.com/>

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

11/5/1911 - Leonard Slye (a.k.a. Roy Rogers)
11/5/1941 - Art Garfunkel
11/7/1937 - Mary Travers
11/7/1943 - Joni Mitchell
11/12/1945 - Neil Young
11/17/1938 - Gordon Lightfoot
11/23/1947 - Jack Hardy
11/27/1917 - Merle Travis

And In Passing:

11/2/1966 - Mississippi John Hurt
11/3/2002 - Lonnie Donegan
11/7/1960 - Alvin Pleasant (A.P.) Carter
11/29/2001 - George Harrison
11/30/1996 - Herbert Khaury (a.k.a. "Tiny Tim")

*Scenes from the Bluemont Fair –
Name that clown!*



(picture submitted by Susan Sommers)

Quote for the Month

"Sunshine can burn you, food can poison you, words can condemn you, pictures can insult you; music cannot punish -- only bless."

~ Artur Schnabel

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON-HERNDON

Meets Tuesday nights, 7:30pm at The Tortilla Factory
648 Eldon Street, Herndon, VA

President: Ray Kaminsky

Treasurer: Dave Hurd

Board of Directors: Sue Beffel, Bill Davis, TM Hanna, Lynn Jordan, Ellen Kaminsky, Chris Kramer-Harnage, Sue Schier, Ron Goad, Bob Hampton

Publicity: Sue Schier

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky

Newsletter: Bob Hampton, Dan Grove, Ray Kaminsky, Dave Hurd

Newsgroup: Dianne Lafleur

Website: Bob Hampton

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights the Folk Club is an open-mike format with a signup board. Each performer has 12 minutes, which includes setup time. On the 2nd Tuesday of the month, we feature a "Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 25-minute performance.

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

To be in the Showcase you must: 1) be a Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in the last 6 months; 2) fill out a lottery slip and place it in the "drawing bucket"; 3) Win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase; and 4) be prepared to be featured in the next newsletter!

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified ads, articles, reviews, artwork and other music-related items to newsletter editor Bob Hampton at bhampton@ossva.com. Information should be received 1 week prior to the end of the month for the next month's newsletter. Items will be published on the basis of music-related interest, timeliness, and available space.

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Advance ticket purchases for Guest Artist concert performances can be made on Tuesdays at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Dave Hurd, 110 Devil's Backbone Overlook, Stephenson, VA 22656, (540) 722-0146

FOLK CLUB MEMBERSHIP

If you enjoy the music and company, become a member! The cost is nominal, just \$15 per year. Along with the opportunity to participate in Showcase drawings, you get a \$1 discount on the ticket price of guest artist concerts (up to

2 tickets per show). Buy 2 tickets to every show and you've saved a bundle! Join up on Folk Club Tuesdays, or call a board member for info.

NEWSGROUP

The Folk Club newsgroup is a great way of keeping in touch with what's happening around town and beyond. Just go to: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/FolkClubofRestonHerndon/>

WEBSITE

The Folk Club has its own website at:

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

INFO LINE

For general folk club information contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402



Classifieds

FOR SALE: Fender Acoustasonic 30 Acoustic Amplifier - barely used \$225.00 Contact Demetrios 571-247-8969 or meetro@msn.com

SEEKING MUSICIANS: Cornet and harmonica player, experienced, seeks working performer, group, or band based in NoVA (Vienna). Jazz, rock, blues, folk, pop, country. david@savageheart.com

WANTED: Your old guitar strings! The Second Strings Project has distributed over 10,000 sets to the world's most depressed regions. Send complete sets only to Kevin Deame, 28 Ladd, Ellington, CT 06029, or give them to Ray Kaminsky at The Club



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c/o Dave Hurd
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