



The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

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

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

Volume 29, Issue 7

July 2013

July 9 Showcase – Dan Grove

By Dan

Dan Grove plays guitar some, sings when necessary, and occasionally commits songwriting. He wishes the Potomac had coral reefs, and hopes all your dreams are coming true.

That's the elevator speech, but here's more: Dan's a native Washingtonian, born in DC and raised in Arlington, where he went to Wakefield High School. He got a degree in philosophy, but doesn't recommend it. He would have been a marine biologist if he didn't sunburn easily – he now specializes in snorkeling reefs at night when he's near one. He's been a bartender (a chance to use his degree for something), software developer, telecom manager, and theater sound designer, and currently does multimedia for Northrop Grumman. He had some fun working on the Smithsonian's Electric Guitar, Blue Guitars, Piano, and Synthesizer projects in the late 90s. He lives in Reston, is on the board of the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), and will be doing the Reston Triathlon for the 21st time in a row in September.



As a kid, Dan took a year of piano and four years of flute. At 13, he started banjo with Lamar Greer, a brilliant bluegrass player and teacher, but switched to guitar to improve his chances of getting a date. By 15, he and some friends had a band (The Pendletons) that went on to do OK for high school kids, playing rock, Motown, Stax/Volt, Dylan, and blues. Dan managed the band, played lead guitar, and doubled on flute, bass, and tenor sax. One of the vocalists, Stephanie Clark, became the third Miss Black America in 1970, singing "Alfie" on nationwide TV from Madison Square Garden, and then leading USO tours.

In college, Dan decided to be serious and skip music, selling his '57 Telecaster and '63 Gibson SGS guitars. He turned down repeated invitations, to his eternal regret – he never jammed with Bob Telson, Bonnie Raitt, Jerry Harrison, and other musicians who went on to brilliant careers, or could have. It wasn't until 1992 that he picked up a guitar again. He was still a flatpicker, but after hearing Al Petteway he switched to fingerstyle, and did Celtic music before being drawn to Piedmont Blues.

Dan went to the Swannanoa Gathering in the mid 90's (Al's influence again) to study guitar, signed up for a songwriting class for fun, and got hooked. He's now on the board of the Songwriters Association of Washington (SAW).

Dan's last showcase was in 1998. He has accompanied many other performers at the Folk Club since then, but hadn't filled out a showcase ticket in 15 years before this. So, why now? "It's a great springboard for the Augusta Blues & Swing Week, which starts the week after the showcase." Dan last went to Augusta several years ago, when one of the instructors – Fiona Boyes, from Australia – heard him play one of his songs, "Guys be Wise," and later recorded it.

So, expect a bluesy set, getting ready for Blues Week! Dan may be accompanied by **Ann Granger** on vocals for a song or two for this showcase.

Norman Blake – (Neo-) Traditional Troubadour



Norman Blake opened his guitar workshop at Steve Kaufman's first Flatpicking Camp in 1996 by telling the attendees "I'm here to teach you how to play slow." Not only was this a welcome respite to students who had been inundated with and intimidated by rapid-fire bluegrass musicians all week (a style that Norman was certainly no stranger to), it underscored the enjoyment of simple music that is the truest legacy of Norman's career.

Born in 1938 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, his family moved to Sulphur Springs, Georgia when Norman was just a year old. There (and after another move to Rising Fawn, Georgia) he became steeped in old-time and bluegrass music on the radio and 78 rpm records of people like Roy Acuff, the Monroe Brothers, the Carter Family, the Delmore Brothers and others. Later in life Norman said that all he ever wanted to do was to play like the "hillbillies on the radio". At about age 11 his grandmother, who played piano, organ, and mandolin, taught him how to play the "Spanish Fandango" on guitar. His cousin Earl Wallraven, an old-time fiddle and banjo player, taught Norman how to accompany him (or as it was called, "second" him) on guitar, telling Norman when he had the right chords, or cracking him across the knuckles with the violin bow when he got in wrong.

Norman's early guitar playing was based on fingerpicking style, using a thumb pick and one or two finger picks. This was the standard for old time guitar accompanists, and was even used by folks like "Mother" Maybelle Carter for playing lead runs. He became so proficient playing at blistering speeds this way that he said he could drive banjo players crazy. It wasn't until he first heard Doc Watson flatpicking on a record in the early '60s that he thought to himself "Lord a'mercy, I could do something like that." Later when he started playing on his own the flatpicking began to take over as his preferred style, and in duplicating the banjo rolls he liked to use the sound became more "arpeggiated", and gradually led to him playing a smoother, more slowed down style. He still enjoys fingerpicking, but nowadays uses his bare fingers rather than the thumb and finger picks.

Norman has played professionally since he was 16 years old, performing with a variety of groups in the mid to late '50s, and culminating in 1960 when he became a member of June Carter's touring band. Temporarily sidetracked (though not musically) by army duty in Panama from 1961-63, he returned home and moved to Nashville, where he joined Johnny Cash's band. That same year he married Nancy Short and relocated to his birthplace of Chattanooga. Throughout the '60s and into the early '70s Norman played with a variety of folks including Kris Kristofferson, Joan Baez, Ralph Stanley, and on the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band album *Will the Circle be Unbroken*. In 1971 he joined John Hartford's *Aereo-Plain* with Vassar Clements. Since he started performing more on his own he's been best known for his collaborations with wife, Nancy and with Tony Rice. He's also been involved as either performer and/or arranger for several film soundtracks including *Walk the Line*, *Cold Mountain*, and the multi-platinum recording of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*



Norman has continued to record, with his most recent being a compilation of mostly traditional and old-time songs titled *Green Light on the Southern*, a 2011 release with the eponymous track being one of his own originals.

MUSICAL NOTES

FloydFest – July 25th thru 28th

FloydFest 12 ('Rise & Shine') once again dishes up a bevy of artists to please every musical appetite. **Blue Ridge Outdoor Magazine** calls it "our favorite outdoor festival". Performers this year include **Hot Tuna, Old Crow Medicine Show, The Infamous Stringdusters, Edward Sharpe & the Magnetic Zeros, Brandi Carlile**, along with dozens of other headliners and a slew of fresh talent from the *On The Rise* series – rising stars on the music scene, along with DJs, comedians, and other performers to entertain the entire family.

FloydFest is produced by Across-the-Way Productions (based in Floyd, VA). Check out all the details of the festival on the website at: <http://www.FloydFest.com>

Mineral Bluegrass Festival, July 18th thru 20th

The 30th Anniversary of the Mineral Bluegrass Festival takes place this year at Walton Park in Mineral, VA. This year featured performers like **Ralph Stanley II, Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out, the Little Roy & Lizzy Show, Gold Wing Express**, and many more. mineralbluegrass.com

AvalonFest 2013 – August 9th thru 11th

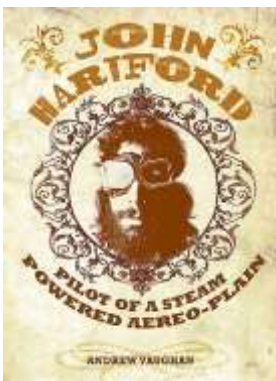
This year marks the 16th AvalonFest at the Avalon Resort in Paw Paw, WV. This year's festival features entertainers **Barleyjuice, Dean Crawford & the Dunn's River Band, Hard Swimmin' Fish, Gathering Time**, and many more (including **The Grandsons** and the **Hula Monsters**). Get more info online at <http://www.avalon-resort.com>, or send email to avalonfest@avalon-resort.com

Grace Pettis Song Workshop

Folk Club December 2013 Concert Artist Grace Pettis will be teaching a four-day, four-part songwriting workshop August 5-8 at Ebenezer's Coffeehouse in Washington, DC. Each workshop is centered on a different theme: August 5 - Song Structure; August 6 - Word Choice; August 7 - Chord Choice; August 8 - Storytelling. For additional info, or to register, visit the website at www.gracepettis.com

New John Hartford Book & CD

In his teens he was already a multi-instrumentalist. In the 60's he was playing on *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* and *The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour* television shows, introducing and popularizing his updated take on traditional country and bluegrass music, a style that grew into what became known as 'Newgrass'. Now Andrew Vaughan has written the first ever book on John Hartford, *Pilot of a Steam Powered Aereo-Plain*, inspired by John's seminal album from 1971, *Aereo-Plain*.



Included with the book is a CD of a live 1994 performance at the Ryman Auditorium with Vassar Clements, Tut

Taylor, and Tony Rice. The book and CD are available on the John Hartford website at johnhartford.com

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

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

Doris Justis

dorisjustis.com - Folk, original, and contemporary music

T.M Hanna, tmhanna.net

7/12, 6-9pm, The Old Brogue (Celtic Union w/Jeff Walthall) oldbrogue.com

Bill Davis (w/Somos El Mar)

schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Chris Anderson <http://chris-anderson.info/>

Ron Goad – MisterGoad@aol.com

- Mondays 7:30pm, F.A.M.E. Variety Showcases at Brewer's Alley, Frederick, MD. FrederickAcoustic.org

- **2nd & 4th Wednesdays 8-10:30pm**, SAW Variety Showcases at Epicure Café, Fairfax, VA Epicurecafe.org

- **2nd Thursday each month 7:00pm**, SAW-BMI concerts at The Athenaeum, Old Town Alexandria. NVFAA.org

- **3rd Saturdays 7-10pm**, SAW Concerts at Surge Community Church, 1988 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA. Tickets \$10. Saw.org

Harley String Band (Jim Clark, Jim Johnson and Steve Coffee)

www.harleystringband.com

Chatham Street (Christal and Peter Prout)

chathamstreetmusic.com

The Bull Run String Band (Roger Johnson)

facebook.com/TheBullRunStringBand

Richard White diviningsage.com

Crys Matthews crysmatthews.com

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

7/3/1893 – "Mississippi" John Hurt

7/4/1826 – Stephen Foster

7/10/1907 – Fulton Allen (a.k.a. "Blind Boy" Fuller)

7/10/1947 – Arlo Guthrie

7/14/1912 – Woody Guthrie

7/18/1954 – Ricky Skaggs

7/21/1947 – Steven Demetri Georgiou (aka Cat Stevens)

7/23/1971 – Alison Krauss

7/30/1936 – George "Buddy" Guy

Quote for the Month

"Had I learned to fiddle, I should have done nothing else"
- Samuel Johnson



Meets Tuesday nights, 7:15pm at Amphora Diner Deluxe
1151 Elden Street, Herndon, VA

President: Ben Hamblin

Treasurer: Dave Hurd

Board of Directors: Sue Beffel, Bill Davis, TM Hanna, Lynn Jordan, Ray & Ellen Kaminsky, Sue Schier, Ron Goad, Bob Hampton, Laura Kelmelis, Bill Farrar

Publicity: Cheryl Hennessy, Sue Schier

Bookings: Jim Clark

Newsletter: Bob Hampton, Dan Grove, Chris Kramer-Harnage, 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.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon
c/o Dave Hurd
110 Devils Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656



RESERVE YOUR CONCERT SEATS IN ADVANCE

Donations can be made in advance for Guest Artist concert performances 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 recommended donation for guest artist concerts (up to 2 donations per show). Join up on Folk Club Tuesdays, or call a board member for info.

KEEP IN TOUCH

There are several ways you can keep in touch, or find out more about The Club:

Website: www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

FaceBook: Search for "Folk Club of Reston Herndon"

Yahoo Newsgroup:

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/FolkClubofRestonHerndon/>

General Info: Contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402



Classifieds

FOR SALE: Large Dura loudspeaker/stage monitor \$100. Electric 6 string Guitar dual pickup with pods and input jack \$20. 540-349-2938

FOR SALE: Archtop Guitar Kalamazoo by Gibson 1930 model FK-360 low action \$1000. Crate G40XL Guitar Amp \$40. 540-349-2938

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