

## **SPECIAL ARTICLE – “SPIDER” JOHN KOERNER**

– see page 2 for details

## **August 13 Showcase – Frazier**

By Frazier with Dan Grove



Frazier has been singing and playing music since childhood. From the "Minisingers" in Washington state - *Tumbling Tumbleweeds*, to church choirs, to the Navy's choir. He sang tenor, if you can believe it, he says in his now baritone announcer's voice. From voice-overs to folk music to heavy rock and roll, he's done it all. Well, not all - no rap, hip hop, or heavy country/bluegrass.

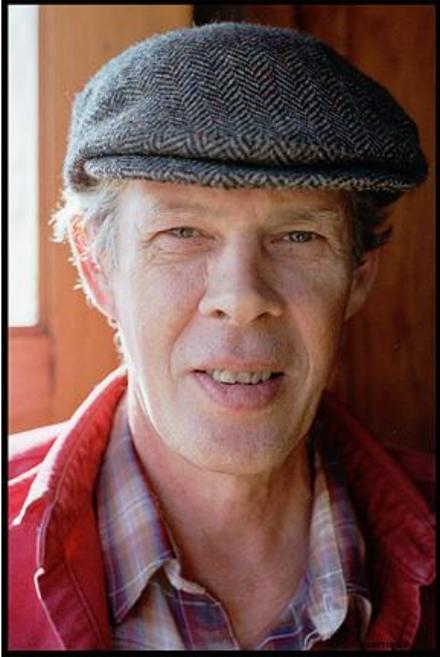
For the past 30+ years he sang and played in a trio and a duo, which both fizzled out due to family and distance issues. So for the first time in... well, too many years to elaborate on, he's doing the solo thing. It's the first time he's choosing songs based on *his* voice, and not the harmony potential. He's missing the harmony, but enjoying the attention. His musical influences are the Beatles, Beach Boys, Everly Brothers, Simon & "Funkle," and Alice in Chains - basically musicians and groups with a great harmony component, reflecting his earlier collaborative performing. He has several originals, and says he's "deciding how many to make you suffer through."

Frazier has lived in the DC metro area for about 50 years (he went to Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville). He mostly accompanies himself on guitar, but has a couple of songs on the keyboard. He plays at open mics up to four times a week now, all over the DC metro region, and loves the Folk Club nights most of all. The stated rule: "Shut the hell up, somebody's playing," makes it a joy to perform here. He's looking forward to seeing how many songs he can cram into his allotted two set time slot!

Check out his web site and YouTube channel for examples, including recent appearances at the folk club:

([www.fraziersvoice.com](http://www.fraziersvoice.com), [www.YouTube.com/user/fraziermusic](http://www.YouTube.com/user/fraziermusic))

# “Spider” John Koerner – Authentic Folk Legend



As Bob Dylan wrote in his book *Chronicles*: about meeting contemporary John Koerner in the late 1950s, “He was tall and thin with a look of perpetual amusement on his face... When he spoke he was soft spoken, but when he sang he became a field holler shouter.” Though Koerner and Dylan teamed up briefly as a duo in 1960, it was with Dave Ray and Tony Glover that he first achieved real stature among the ranks of the folk/blues revivalists of the early ‘60s. What set Koerner, Ray, and Glover apart from many of their contemporaries was that rather than merely imitating the Southern bluesmen of yore, they were determined to fully inhabit their songs. As one writer put it, “Imagine the Kingston Trio after a stint with the Hell’s Angels.”

John Koerner was born in 1938 in Rochester, NY. In the ‘50s, while enrolled at the University of Minnesota, he became involved with the local burgeoning folk scene, and with a borrowed guitar and a Burl Ives songbook threw himself headlong into a more than 50-year experience of discovering, plumbing, and sharing a wealth of American music, both traditional and original, to audiences captivated by the energy with which he delivers his performances. As John says about the music he plays, “...it's not for just sitting around quietly, listening. I learn most of my stuff in the bars, and you've got to punch it out in the bars, and that picks people up and livens them up. I'm trying to not put them to sleep; I'm trying to have them feel the power of these songs.”

Along with Ray and Glover, the trio released their first album, *Blues, Rags and Hollers* in 1963. In keeping with the nature of the earlier blues artists who inspired them, the members took on nicknames. Dave Ray became “Snaker”, Tony Glover became “Little Sun”, and John became “Spider” John, by nature of his long, slender arms and legs. After recording their third and final album together in 1965 (until 1996’s reunion session, *One Foot in the Groove*) John felt the time was right to move on to a new stage in his life (and accompanying musical direction). He experimented with electric instruments and a more raucous style on 1969’s *Running, Jumping, Standing Still*, but returned to a more traditional style with 1974’s *Some American Folk Songs Like They Used To* (with guest appearances by Ray and Glover).

Soon other interests took hold of John’s life, including filmmaking, astronomy, and vintage shipbuilding. Occasionally he heads back into the studio and cuts an album - to Koerner it's all interconnected (In 1992 he joined Ramblin’ Jack Elliot and Utah Phillips on the CD *Legends of Folk*). “I have been a folk musician, I have been a folk astronomer, I have been a folk boatbuilder. I hope to be folk-other things,” he says. “The idea is that you take yourself as a person of modest talents, you become interested in something, and you throw yourself into it because it intrigues the s\*\*t out of you. Anybody could do what I did. You just have to treat it with a bit of abandon and not worry about what other people think.”

Throughout his musical career, John has inspired other musicians, including Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, John Lennon (Spider was also a Beatles fan), and Beck. He has appeared occasionally on that radio show hosted by another old Minnesotan, *A Prairie Home Companion*. This year he released his latest CD, *What’s Left of Spider John*, a collection of traditional and original tunes with minimal accompaniment, recorded in mono direct to tape through 1950’s tube microphones. It seems a fittingly authentic way to capture the spirit of one of our most authentic folk legends.

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**UPCOMING CONCERTS include:**

**[Dave Nachmanoff](#) 9/17/2013   [Mark Elliot & Runaway Home](#) 10/22/2013**

**Seating:** Contact **Dave Hurd** Tuesdays at The Folk Club or e-mail - [DAHurdSr@cs.com](mailto:DAHurdSr@cs.com)

## MUSICAL NOTES

### **AvalonFest 2013 – August 9<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup>**

This year marks the 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:avalonfest@avalon-resort.com)

### **Hot August Blues and Roots Festival – August 17<sup>th</sup>**

If it's hot already, you might just go head out for some hot music at the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the HAB festival in Cockeysville, MD. Held at the Oregon Ridge Park, this year's lineup includes the **Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, Galactic, Greensky Bluegrass, JD McPherson**, and **Cara Kelly & the Tell Tale**. The concert runs from Noon-10pm. Advance tickets are \$49, or \$65 at the gate. [hotaugustblues.com/](http://hotaugustblues.com/)

### **Folk Club Campout – Aug 31<sup>st</sup> - Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The annual campouts are one of the oldest traditions of The Club, having been held in one form or another since 1986. Dave has been hosting the get-togethers since 1990. Come help Dave and Beth (and everyone else!) celebrate their annual Labor Day Folk Club Campout. Meals are provided (for a small contribution charge), so pack up your tents, drinks, and instruments and come on out to the beautiful Double Trouble Estate in Stephenson, VA. See Dave or Beth at The Club for more info, and be sure to make your reservations by August 29<sup>th</sup>. **Check our website for the flyer!**

### **Bright Box Theater Special Concert – October 26<sup>th</sup>**

Folk Club member **Christal Prout** (of Chatham Street) will be performing along with **Grace Pettis** (our December concert performer) and **Kate Campbell** in "An Intimate Evening with Kate Campbell, Christal Prout, and Grace Pettis". The three award-winning songwriters will be together on stage, taking turns sharing their songs and stories at the beautiful new Bright Box Theater, located in downtown Winchester, VA on the "old town historic walking mall". Fall is a beautiful time to visit Winchester. Have dinner, attend the concert, stay overnight at the historic George Washington Hotel, or one of the historic Bed & Breakfasts downtown. Take your lodging receipt to Valerie Hill Winery the following day for a complimentary wine tasting - a special offering just for this event. There will be a meet and greet hour either before or immediately after the concert. The venue offers table seating with food and drinks.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, and are selling quickly, so get yours before the show sells out.

Tickets and info: [www.brightboxwinchester.com](http://www.brightboxwinchester.com)

### **ALL AROUND THE TOWN**

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

#### **Doris Justis**

[dorisjustis.com](http://dorisjustis.com) - Folk, original, and contemporary music

**T.M Hanna**, [tmhanna.net](http://tmhanna.net)

#### **Bill Davis (w/Somos El Mar)**

[schoolshows.com/somoselmar](http://schoolshows.com/somoselmar)

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

#### **Ron Goad – [MisterGoad@aol.com](mailto:MisterGoad@aol.com)**

- Mondays 7:30pm, F.A.M.E. Variety Showcases at Brewer's Alley, Frederick, MD. [FrederickAcoustic.org](http://FrederickAcoustic.org)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 8-10:30pm**, SAW Variety Showcases at Epicure Café, Fairfax, VA [Epicurecafe.org](http://Epicurecafe.org)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month 7:00pm**, SAW-BMI concerts at The Athenaeum, Old Town Alexandria. [NVFAA.org](http://NVFAA.org)

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 7-10pm**, SAW Concerts at Surge Community Church, 1988 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA. Tickets \$10. [Saw.org](http://Saw.org)

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

[www.harleystringband.com](http://www.harleystringband.com)

#### **Chatham Street (Christal and Peter Prout)**

10/26, 8pm – Bright Box Theater (with Kate Campbell & Grace Pettis)

[www.brightboxwinchester.com](http://www.brightboxwinchester.com)  
[chathamstreetmusic.com](http://chathamstreetmusic.com)

#### **The Bull Run String Band (Roger Johnson)**

[facebook.com/TheBullRunStringBand](https://facebook.com/TheBullRunStringBand)

**Richard White** [diviningsage.com](http://diviningsage.com)

**Crys Matthews** [crysmatthews.com](http://crysmatthews.com)

### **MONTHLY MILESTONES**

#### **Born This Month:**

8/1/1931 – "Ramblin" Jack Elliot

8/1/1942 – Jerry Garcia 8/4/1901 – Louis Armstrong

8/8/1944 – John Renbourn

8/12/1929 – Alvis Edgar "Buck" Owens, Jr.

8/14/1941 – David Crosby

8/22/1917 – John Lee Hooker

8/27/1925 – Carter Stanley

#### *Quote for the Month*

*"Music, when combined with a pleasurable idea, is poetry..."*

- Edgar Allan Poe



*of Reston & Herndon*

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, Chris Kramer-Harnage, Sue Schier, Ron Goad, Bob Hampton, Laura Kelmelis, Bill Farrar

**Publicity:** Cheryl Hennessy, Sue Schier

**Bookings:** Chris Kramer-Harnage

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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