



The Folk Club of Reston/Herndon

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

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

Volume 30, Issue 9

September 2014

THIS MONTH'S CONCERT – SPARKY & RHONDA RUCKER

Nationally-acclaimed Folk Artist/Storytellers – see page 2 details

September 9 Showcase – Ric Sweeney

By Rick, with Dan Grove



Ignore the rumors. **Ric Sweeney** (aka **Mr. Rain**) does not make fires by rubbing sticks together. He was not a cellmate of Merle Haggard's. He was not profiled in *Lives of the Saints*. He does not suffer from DEDD (Don Everly Delusional Disorder). He did not vote for George Bush. Either of them.

It is true, however, that he performed rockabilly, rhythm & blues, and country music with several bands in high school. He did major in philosophy. He did live with Sleepy John Estes for two weeks. He did attend Woodstock, although this claim has been questioned because he says that he remembers it. He did stay up all night drinking with Jimmy Martin, and he was kicked out of a jam session with Peter Rowan and Jerry Garcia. And he did marry a lovely woman and rear a son who is now a popular DJ.

Ric has played in a number of bands, the most successful of which had a regular night at the old Red Fox Inn in Bethesda. He suffers from stage fright, and any number of other things into which we will not go. He is a certified intermediate level guitarist and is possessed of a, shall we say, interesting voice. He occasionally comes up with some nifty song compositions. His repertoire of post-1975 material is, however, limited to perhaps a dozen tunes. He is almost as old as Dave Hurd.

This past July, Ric taught Beginning Harmony and Gospel Singing with Karen Collins at Augusta's Early Country Music Week for the fourth year. The harmony class focuses on how to learn by ear and practice basic two-part singing in small groups, a valuable skill.

One last thing. He is genuinely moved by, and grateful for, the reception he has received at the Folk Club of Reston-Herndon. A car crash interrupted Ric's performing for a while, and he hasn't done a showcase since 2009. But he's back, and has invited **Al Bernier** and last month's showcase artist, **Kim Melton**, to share the stage with him. Welcome home, Ric!



Proudly presents



SPARKY & RHONDA RUCKER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

Show starts at 7:15 p.m.

\$12 (\$11 MEMBERS) Requested Donation

AMPHORA'S DINER DELUXE-HERNDON

1151 Elden St - Herndon, VA 20170

Info 703-435-2402

www.restonherndonfolkclub.com

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

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon is a non-profit organization

Sparky and Rhonda Rucker perform throughout the U.S. as well as overseas, singing songs and telling stories from the American folk tradition. Sparky has been performing over forty years and is internationally recognized as a leading folklorist, musician, historian, storyteller, and author. He accompanies himself with fingerstyle picking and bottleneck blues guitar, banjo, and spoons. Rhonda Rucker is a musician, children's author, storyteller, and songwriter. Her blues-style harmonica, piano, old-time banjo, and bones add musical versatility to their performances.

Sparky and Rhonda deliver an uplifting concert of toe-tapping music spiced with humor, history, and tall tales. They take their audience on an emotional and even educational journey that ranges from poignant stories of slavery and

war to an amusing rendition of a Brer Rabbit tale or their witty commentaries on current events. Their music includes a variety of old-time blues, slave songs, Appalachian music, spirituals, ballads, work songs, Civil War music, railroad songs, and a few of their own original compositions.

Their performances include such venues as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Smithsonian Folklife Festival as well as NPR's *On Point*, *Prairie Home Companion*, *Mountain Stage*, and *Morning Edition*. Their recording, *Treasures & Tears*, was nominated for a W.C. Handy Award, and their music is also included on the Grammy-nominated anthology, *Singing Through the Hard Times*.

www.sparkyandrhonda.com

UPCOMING CONCERTS include:

Cathy Fink and Mary Marxer - 10/14/2014* cathymarcy.com

April Mae & the June Bugs - 11/18/2014 aprilmaeandthejunebugs.com

**Appreciation to the COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS OF HERNDON for their generous support of this concert during Herndon Arts Week*

MUSICAL NOTES

Bluemont Fair – September 20th and 21st

Come join the fun at the 45th annual celebration of this terrific country fair. The fair will host lots of great entertainment on four stages. Food, crafts, and fun for the whole family.

For a complete listing and further details, visit the website at: bluemontfair.org

WFMA Tribute to Dick Cerri – September 27

The World Folk Music Association is presenting "Remembering Dick Cerri: A Celebration in Song" in tribute to Founding Member and Past President of the WFMA, Dick Cerri, who passed away last October.

Performers scheduled to appear include: **Peter Yarrow, Noel Paul Stookey, Tom Paxton, Christine Lavin, Modern Man, Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen, Anne Hills, Schooner Fare, Mack Bailey, The Squid Jiggers, Carolyn Hester and Side by Side.** And there are sure to be some surprises! You can find all the concert details at WFMA.net

NERFA, SERFA One-Day Conference in Virginia

(from nerfa.org)

SERFA (Southeast Regional Folk Alliance) and NERFA will be co-sponsoring a joint One-Day Mini-Conference on Saturday September 6th in Charlottesville, VA. FCRH Concert performers **Kipyn Martin** (April 2014) and **Susan Greenbaum** (May 2015) are among 10 artists that have been selected to perform Juried Showcases. The Juried Showcases are scheduled to start at 4:00 pm and are open to the public

Banjos Rule in DC!

(from DCBU.org)

Did you know that DC is home to one of the largest and most vibrant communities of banjo players in the country? For proof look no further than the Patuxent Banjo Project, a two-CD set which is now available. Produced by Tom Mindte at Patuxent Music, it features a cadre of outstanding bluegrass and clawhammer players all with deep ties to the nation's capital.



The artists on the CDs include elders Bill Emerson, Eddie Adcock, Don Bryant, Bill Blackburn, Pete Kuykendall, and Roni Stoneman, but also some of the very best next-generation three-fingers players like IBMA banjoist of the year Mike Munford, Tom Adams, Chris Warner, Murphy Henry, Mark Delaney, Dick Smith and clawhammer masters Reed Martin, Cathy Fink, Stephen Wade, Mark Schatz, Paul Brown and wunderkind Victor Furtado.

The album also offers a wide range of material and traditions, from Munford's dazzling version of Hot Burrito Breakdown to Ira Gitlin's original classical tune *Allegretto con Melanzane*, to Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer's Bob Dylan cover *Man Gave Names to All The Animals*. The latter features the deep tones of the seldom heard cello

banjo. There are still more banjo players in the area that will likely be included on a second volume at some point if this first one is well-received.

<http://dcbu.org/dcbanjo.html>

MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO

Doris Justis

2nd Sundays each month, WFMA "Showcase at El Golfo", 8739 Flower Ave., Silver Spring, MD

elgolforestaurant.com

dorisjustis.com - Folk, original, and contemporary music

T.M Hanna, tmhanna.net

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

Difficult Run String Band (Jim Nagle)

drstringband.wix.com/drstringband

Richard White diviningsage.com

Mary Shapiro maryshapiromusic.com

The Aloha Boys (Glen Hirabayashi and Isaac Ho'opi'i)

alohaboys.com

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

9/?/1893 – "Blind" Lemon Jefferson

9/5/1930 – Shel Silverstein

9/5/1946 – Loudon Wainwright III

9/8/1897 – Jimmie Rodgers

9/10/1945 – Jose Feliciano

9/11/1945 – Leo Kottke

9/13/1911 – Bill Monroe

9/17/1923 – Hank Williams

9/19/1941 – Ellen Naomi Cohen ("Mama" Cass Elliot)

9/21/1934 – Leonard Cohen

9/27/1928 – "Uncle" Josh Graves

Quote for the Month

"Don't give me songs, give me something to sing about!"

- Joss Whedon



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, Sue Schier, Ron Goad, Bob Hampton, Laura Kelmelis, Bill Farrar, Jim Clark

Publicity: Cheryl Hennessy, Sue Schier

Bookings: Jim Clark

Newsletter: Bob Hampton, Dan Grove, Chris Kramer-Harnage, Dave Hurd

Newsgroup: Dianne Lafleur

Website: Bob Hampton

Lifetime Members: Rose Haskell, Ray & Ellen Kaminsky

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

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