



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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March 2018

This Month's Concert: March 20 – Sparky & Rhonda Rucker

They are sure to deliver uplifting and toe-tapping music spiced with humor, history, and tall tales.

See page 2

March 13 Showcase – Ric Sweeney

by Ric, with Dan Grove

The Folk Club community has received my efforts at song composition with extraordinary kindness and acceptance, so I thought to proffer a short piece telling how I've arrived at the position of daring to assume that my creations might be of interest, and even entertaining, to individuals other than myself or my long-suffering wife.

I began writing poems in high school, inspired by the romantics (e.g. Keats, Shelley, and Byron) and the beats (Ferlinghetti, Corso, and Ginsberg), and kept at it through the early '70s. I yet make a very occasional addition to the corpus.

I began to learn the guitar at about the age of twelve. I was not especially talented, but I had always displayed an ability to parrot what music I listened to on the radio. That consisted of an eclectic mix of pop tunes (think Frankie Laine and Rosie Clooney) and country music (Webb Pierce and Kitty Wells). When unadulterated R&B crashed the party, rockabilly tagged along, and in the wake of it all came my high school band, the Country Clubbers (named after our favorite malt liquor).



The '60s found me in the Folk Revival, moving into the blues and thence into the still obscure Country Blues (now labelled Pre-War Blues). By mid-decade it began to dawn on me that my efforts in poetry and music could be joined in composing songs. My early attempts were a bit too ethereal (i.e. spaced out), but some politically humorous talking blues were enjoyed by my audiences – such as they were.

A second epiphany soon came along. I had returned to my country music listening habits and I made up a country flavored song based on something I was going through at the time. It brought together the right chords, musically and emotionally – my first real keeper.

It has been a long time now since I've put together a song. In as much as I have so few outlets and no aptitude for self-promotion, it seems senseless to labor over songs that no one will hear. (*Editor's note: Ric, we want to hear them at the Folk Club!*) What energy I have will be better applied to creating melodies for the many virgin lyrics I've spun – or perhaps re-christening them as poems.



of Reston & Herndon

Proudly Presents

Sparky & Rhonda



TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

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

"Sparky Rucker is unique! He'll make you glad to be alive and struggling." Pete Seeger

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

James "Sparky" Rucker has been singing songs and telling stories from the American tradition for over fifty years. He performs with his wife Rhonda, adding vocals, guitar, banjo, and spoons. Sparky grew up in Knoxville, TN and began playing guitar at age eleven. He also played trumpet in the junior high marching band and sang in church, school, and community choirs throughout his childhood. Sparky's performing credits include the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, as well as NPR's *Prairie Home Companion*, *Mountain Stage*, and *Morning Edition*. Other performing credits include the American Folk Blues Tour in Europe and the National Folk Festival at Wolf Trap.

Rhonda Rucker practiced medicine for five years before becoming a full-time musician, author, and storyteller. Rhonda performs with Sparky adding vocals, piano, banjo, blues harmonica, and rhythmic bones. They appeared on the Grammy-

nominated CD, *Singing Through the Hard Times*, in 2009. They have recorded nine albums with 1991's *Treasures and Tears* nominated for a Handy Award for Best Traditional Recording. Rhonda has been an author since 1998, publishing articles in newspapers, magazines, and books. Her historical novel for young readers, *Swing Low, Sweet Harriet*, was published by Motes Books in 2013

Sparky and Rhonda will be marking their 5th appearance at The Folk Club. They've performed for the *Old Music for New Ears* series for Kentucky Educational Television, for *Storytelling in North America* (a National Geographic Society educational media project), and for Scholastic's Teaching Resources projects. They have also been tellers-in-residence at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, TN.
<http://www.sparkyandronda.com>

UPCOMING CONCERTS include:

Wil Maring & Robert Bowlin 4/17/2018

The Matchsellers 5/15/2018

MUSICAL NOTES



Dead Men's Hollow – Final Chances

After 17 years of sharing quality Americana/Bluegrass music, Dead Men's Hollow, which includes Folk Club member Marcy Cochran, is disbanding (two members, Mike and Caryn, are moving to Colorado early this summer). Their final performances are:

- Saturday, March 24th at Congressional Cemetery (two shows, 7 pm and 8:30 pm). For tickets:

congressionalcemetery.ticketleap.com/dead-mens-hollow-farewell-concerts/

- Thursday, March 29th on Millennium Stage at Kennedy Center at 6pm (free)

- Saturday, May 5th at the Epicure in Fairfax, with Sound Garden opening at 7 pm and Dead Men's Hollow appearing at 8 pm.

Institute of Musical Traditions

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason - Monday, March 26, 2018, 7:30 pm, St Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Rd, Rockville, MD 20852

For more information, go to www.imtfolk.org.

Focus Music

St. Patrick's Day Showcase: Siobhan O'Brien, Cletus Kennelly, Sean McGhee, Know1Else – Saturday, March 17 at 6 pm, Positano Ristorante, 4948-4940 Fairmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

Go to www.focusmusic.org for more information.

World Folk Music Association (WFMA)

Go to www.wfma.net/index.htm for more information.

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW)

Go to fsgw.org/ for more information.

"FOLKIES" BORN THIS MONTH:

3/1/1927 - Harry Belafonte

3/2/1923 – Artel “Doc” Watson

3/6/1905 – Bob Wills

3/7/1944 – Townes VanZandt

3/8/1954 – Bob Brozman

3/10/1938 –Norman Blake

3/15/1912 – Sam “Lightnin” Hopkins

3/16/1954 – Tim O’Brien

3/20/1937 – Jerry Reed

3/21/1893 – Armenter Chatmon (aka Bo Carter)

3/21/1902 – Eddie James “Son” House

3/23/1945 – David Grisman

3/27/1905 – Leroy Carr

3/30/1913 – Frankie Laine

3/30/1914 – John Lee “Sonny Boy” Williamson

MUSICAL QUOTE

“So in the face of what looks like really bleak defeat, we have to do the little victories. And you have to consider every step that's a positive step that brings back compassion, that brings back empathy, that brings back political action. Day by day, these are the victories. At the end of the day, you get only what you did that day. You don't get a whole future of world peace.” – Joan Baez

MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO

T.M Hanna tmhanna.net

Bill Davis (w/Somos El Mar)
schoolshows.com/somoselmar

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

- Monthly, 2nd Saturday, Harried Americans Happy Hour, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Epicure Cafe, Fairfax, VA. <http://harriedamericans.com>. The show includes comedy, poetry, and music, geared to adults - and is free, with a suggested donation of \$10.

Ron Goad MisterGoad@aol.com

- 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays 7:30 to ? p.m. (open mic after scheduled sets), SAW Variety Showcases at Epicure Café, Fairfax, VA - Epicurecafe.org.

- Monthly, 2nd Monday at Brewer's Alley, Frederick, MD. Contact Ron Goad for more information.

Harley String Band (Jim Clark, Jim Johnson and Steve Coffee) www.harleystringband.com

The Aloha Boys (with Glen Hirabayashi)
www.alohaboys.com

Jan Gillies

- 3rd Friday, 8 to 10 p.m., Jan & Neil host an open mic at Lost River Grill/TK Lounge in Lost City, WV.

Hickory Grove (Bev & Jack Osburn) www.hickoryg.com

Stevie Wade Potter, acoustic musician
www.steviewademusic.com

The Stewart Sisters (with Valeria Stewart, Sherry Stewart, Jim Nagle) www.thestewart SISTERS.com

Richard Weil and Paul Loether

www.facebook.com/Silver-Strings-MD-1603491063211121

J. Michael Henry MIKELHENRY@live.com

- 2nd Saturday, 7:30 PM. Host of Acoustic Night at Jirani Coffeehouse, Manassas, VA - free admission.

ETC.

Folk Club Newsletter Via Email

Folk Club members can receive an email with a link to our online newsletter instead of the paper copy by sending a request to newsletter@restonherndonfolkclub.com.



Meets Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. 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, Bill Farrar, Jim Clark
Publicity: David Litwack, Sue Schier
Bookings: Steve Potter
Newsletter: Ben Hamblin, Dan Grove, Steve Potter
Website: Cheryl Hennessy
Facebook: Cheryl Hennessy, Ron Goad
Lifetime Members: Rose Haskell, Ray & Ellen Kaminsky, Dave Hurd

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights the Folk Club is an open-mike format with a sign-up board. Each performer has 12 minutes, which includes setup time.

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month (usually), we feature a "Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 25-minute performance. 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 Ben Hamblin at

newsletter@restonherndonfolkclub.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, or dahurdsr@cs.com.

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 "The Folk Club of Reston Herndon"

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

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

- 2010 Taylor 615ce Jumbo Cutaway Acoustic-Electric Guitar - Excellent Condition - \$1800. Big leaf maple back and sides, sitka spruce top, abalone soundhole rosette, hard-rock maple neck, ebony fretboard with pearl leaf-pattern inlay. Email Marion Sheaffer at mjsheaffer@hotmail.com or call 703 975 1196.

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 Second Strings, P.O. Box 234, Nederland, CO 80466.

LESSONS

- Private guitar lessons in Alexandria. Flexible learning techniques including reading, ear and applied music theory. Contact Eric Forthman: ecfmn@verizon.net; 703-400-7264.

- Fiddle/violin/viola lessons - adults only, in Reston. Perhaps you play another instrument and want to add fiddling to your skill set, or you want to have more fun with the instrument you know and love. Contact Chelle Fulk at 301-366-5579 or info@musicbyanthem.com.