



Introducing the 2019 Board Members—Page 3
Hall of Fame Nominations being accepted for 2019—Page 7



J.D. BARHAM

Inducted Oct. 7, 2018



GEORGE CECIL

Inducted March 7, 1982

Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 4

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GUEST BAND Jan 6, 2019



**Charlie Hull &
 The Country
 Swing Playboys**

**Followed by
 The Dry Creek Band
 3:00 to 5:30pm**

The Western Swing Society

PO Box 2474

Carmichael, CA 95609

westernswingsociety.net

Facebook: SacramentoWesternSwingSociety

Founded in 1981 by Loyd and Perry Jones to enable performance, preservation and perpetuation of the unique American art form known as Western Swing Music.

Officers:

President, Rex Barnes (916) 704-1566

Vice President, Open

Treasurer, Edward Burhans (916) 225-3645

Secretary, Open

Other Directors:

Tony Arana (775) 971-3070

Jimmy Boehnke (530) 886-8375

Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345

Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463

Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520

Jeff Tilton (916) 798-9377

Staff and Committee Chairpersons:

Bartender, Cyndi Lee

Decorating Chair, Rex Barnes

Equipment and Staging, (open)

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Tony Arana

Membership Director, (open)

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Team: Editor, (open)

Layout and Publication: Ronnie and Shelley Elkan,

Photographer, Donald deMars

Public Relations, Rex Barnes

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, (open)

Sound Engineer, Gary Blodgett

Website, Dave Rietz

Youth Program, Edward Burhans

Letter from The Editor

Hey folks, what a great dance we had for December! If you didn't make it, make sure to come out January 6th for Charlie Hull and the Western Swing Playboys.



Thanks Grace Clark and Swingitude for giving WSS your time and talent for our December dance. Swingitude consists of Grace Clark on rhythm guitar and

vocals, Dave Rietz on fiddle, mandolin and vocals, Jimmy Spero on lead guitar, Lisa Burns on bass, and Grace's son, Scott Clark, on drums. They played a mix of western swing with some good old western songs mixed in. The dance floor was packed and I for one can't wait to see this band come back soon.

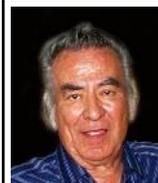
After Swingitude was finished our great Bill Enyeart took the stage with his Dry Creek Band. Dry Creek consisted of Bill Enyeart on lead guitar and vocals, Lenny Serdahl on lead guitar and vocals, Jimmy Baughman on lead guitar and vocals, Rob Shotwell on lead guitar and vocals, Bill Cornett and Larry DeLeon on drums and vocals, Billy Smith on bass, Tom Phelps on pedal steel and vocals, John Bush on harmonicas and Ronnie Elkan (me) on fiddle. I'm always honored to play with this great band. Bill had Nancy Long and Ann Marie Woodward come up and sing with the band.



One of the great assets to the Western Swing Society is our Chuck Webb. He has served as a board

Continued on page 7

JAM ROOM JAMMERS



As always the jam room was packed and swingin'! We want to welcome newcomer Reid Fisher to the

jam room, playing a great fiddle. Participating were: John Gwinner on steel; Tom Gunterman on fiddle and vocals; Bobby Giasson on lead guitar; Bill Cornett and Larry deLeon on drums and vocals; Bill Enyeart and Chuck Webb on bass; and it was great to see Joe Champion back on keyboard and vocal; Nancy Long, Shelley Elkan, Victorian King Bowman, Ann Marie Woodward, Tom Mcveigh, Maxine Chan, Eddie Burr, Grace Clark and Don Spiker on vocals.

Jump in and join us! Just let Tony know you're there and sign the guest sheet to perform. It's always a highlight for the folks that participate.

We'd like to have you write to us about your experience if you play in the jam room or go in to listen.



We'll share your comments here in this column. Just send your thoughts to this email:

ronnie.elkan@gmail.com or send us a letter via snail mail. In the meantime we'll list the players who joined us last month.

Thanks gang. It was great!!!!!!

Tony Arana, Jam Room Host



Western Swing Society Music News

is published monthly by the Western Swing Society

Views and opinions expressed by contributing authors are not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the Society.

Submitted articles, publicity notices and letters not relating directly to the Society or its members may be published at the discretion of the Editor, as space permits. The staff reserves the right to edit any and all items submitted for publication.

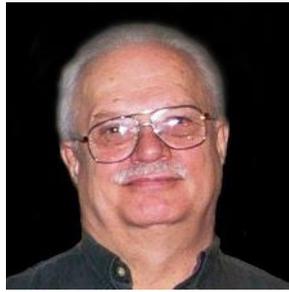
Deadline for Submittals:

All items, photographs, articles, and ad's are due to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month.

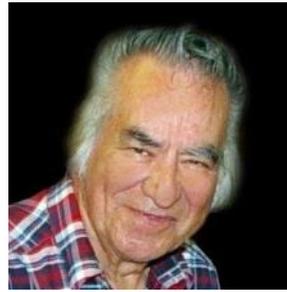
**WELCOME
THE 2019
BOARD
OF THE
WESTERN
SWING
SOCIETY**



*Rex Barnes
President*



*Edward Burhans
Treasurer*



*Tony Arana
Board Member*



*Jimmy Boehnke
Board Member*



*Ronnie Elkan
Board Member*



*Linda McCarley
Board Member*



*Dave Rietz
Board Member*



*Jeff Tilton
Board Member*



J.D. BARHAM

Inducted October 7, 2018

Joe (J.D.) Barham was born in west Texas in 1958 to a musical family. During the 1930's the Miniard family, of Stephenville, TX., broadcast live Western Swing radio shows across north Texas while JD's mother Alice played rhythm swing guitar with her brother Marshall and Joe Holley on fiddles.

At a young age J.D. began to learn guitar from his mother and acquired a deep appreciation for Texas Swing music. At 14 he received his first fiddle and mandolin and would at every opportunity dog Hoyle Nix for pointers. Hoyle was always kind enough to oblige. By the early 1970's J.D. was playing dances with various bands throughout west Texas and in 1978 took his music to the Texas panhandle when he joined the Amarillo Police Dept.

Even with an active law enforcement career, making swing music was an ever-present and enjoyable pursuit. It was not until joining, in 1994, the Texas swing band Cowjazz that Western Swing music took on a much more prominent and demanding roll in J.D.'s life. Happily, perseverance prevailed yielding several accolades:

1999 – Academy of Western Artists – Western Swing Band of the Year

2000 – Academy of Western Artists – Western Swing Album of the Year

2000 – Academy of Western Artists – J.D.'s original tune (Where's All the Fun) was nominated for Western Swing Song of the Year

2014 – Cowtown Society of Western Music Living Hero

Increased notoriety allowed for more travel and dates at some the best venues in Texas and New Mexico such as; Big Balls of Cowtown (Ft. Worth, TX), Buckaroo Ball (Santa Fe, NM), Willie Nelson's Picnic (Luckenbach, TX), The Cotton Club (Granger, TX), and so many more.

J.D. still plays often with his original band **Cowjazz Western Swing** and enjoys sitting in regularly with many of his favorite artists throughout Texas and the Southwest and has been fortunate enough to play Western Swing with some of the best musicians ever to strike a chord and, in doing so, has gotten to know and love some of the best of folks on Earth.....
WESTERN SWING MUSIC FANS!

GEORGE CECIL

Inducted March 7, 1982

George Cecil, born on December 14, 1937, in Wilburton, Oklahoma, began playing drums at the age of 10. Within two years he began his professional career with his father's Western Swing band "John Cecil and The Rhythm Kings".

After moving to the Sacramento area, at age 15 he was already playing various nightspots in and around Sacramento with a host of bands. Not one to ignore his education though, George graduated from Elk Grove High School in 1955 and followed that with one year of college where he majored in - what else? – music!

During the 60's, he worked with the "Jester's Trio". He also spent several years playing drums for Vic Helmer and "E Z Country Sounds". George played and did vocals with Charlie Hull's, "Easysounds" and played jazz style with the "Hangtown Jazz Band".

George enjoyed a recording career as well, with Jan Sutherland and "Custer's Land Band". That group spent six years touring California, Oregon, Canada and Nevada. Then George spent sixteen years with the "Jimmy Rivers Band" and three years with the "Jerry Murphy Quartet". George has been a regular at the annual Sacramento Jazz Festival with Murphy's Quartet and later, with the "Gramercy Six + One Band".

When he was thirteen, George joined Sacramento Musician's Union Local #12 and by age 43 he was a Gold Card member of that union.

George was married on July 16, 1960, and has two sons and four grandsons. He was inducted into the Sacramento Western Swing Society in 1982 and is still a busy musician!



FOOD AVAILABLE

Thank you to the American Legion Post #9 for providing us with delicious hot food at our monthly dances!



MAILBAG



Dear Western Swing Society,
Thank you for the opportunity to perform at
the WSS Dance in December. We had a
delightful time playing, and we love the
WSS.
Have a wonderful holiday season!
Best wishes,
Grace Clark & Swingitude

It was our pleasure to have you on stage, Grace!



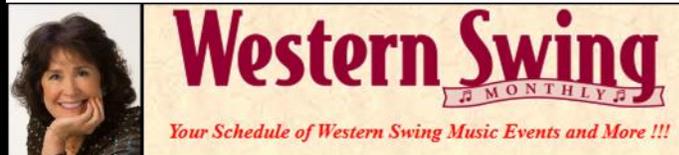
*Grace Clark and Swingitude
Jimmy Spero, Dave Rietz , Grace Clark, Scott Clark and Lisa Burns*



UPCOMING BANDS

- January** Charlie Hull and the Country Swing Playboys
- February** Gary Blodgett and Big Trouble
- March** Shelley Elkan and Bite the Bullet
- May** Doug Weiss & Lincoln Highway
- June** Bob Woods Swampbilly

Check out Barbara Martin's



<http://www.wsmoonthly.com/subscribe.html>

We buy, sell, & trade new & used gear!
-- Free appraisals --
Serving the Western Swing Society for over 45 years!

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www.skipsmusic.com (916) 484 - 7575



MEMBERSHIP

Any Changes? Keep us up to date on any changes in your membership information, especially email addresses. We can't get your newsletter to you unless we have your current information.

You can mail changes in your information to the Society at P.O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA; phone it to (916) 689-9546; or email it to membership@westernswingsociety.net. Thanks!

Keep on Western Swingin'

APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

Submit the following information in a note with your check to:
The Western Swing Society, P.O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609:

Name(s), mailing address, email address, and telephone number.

Fees (make check payable to Western Swing Society)

Individual Membership, \$15 per year.

Couples Membership, \$20 per year. (one address only).

Dues renew every July.

If you join during any other month, your membership fee will be prorated to align with the July renewal.

You will receive a color version of our newsletter via email. Paid membership also includes reduced admission fee at Society music functions, and the right to vote in Society elections and on proposed By-Law changes.



Sunday, January 6, 2019

CHARLIE HULL & THE WESTERN SWING PLAYBOYS
 FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING PLEASURE



Editor's Letter continued from page 2

member and when we had no one to take the helm as president last year, he stepped in to the position. He has decided to step down as president and board member after many years of tireless service to us here at WSS. I for one will miss him and all he brings to the table at our monthly meetings. He also takes on the task of setting up the very popular "Jam Room" with Tony Arana. If you think this is easy, come on in early just to watch it and you'll get a real appreciation for how hard they work. Chuck also held down the low notes on bass guitar for the jammers. Fortunately, he believes in this organization and will still carry on many of the jobs he did. He will still help us with some paperwork matters and will still be Tony's right hand man in the jam room. Thanks, Chuck, for all your contributions.

Another great asset to WSS has left the board after many years of service. Olen Dillingham will also be missed at the board meetings. He acted as secretary and without a doubt knows more about western swing music and history than anybody I know. He was always there with great suggestions and comments. Olen has also volunteered to still take on some of the duties that WSS requires. I'm thankful that he will still play music for us and continue to make the buttons for our Hall of Fame event. This is a huge task and a big cost savings for WSS. Thanks for everything Olen.

Big thanks to Rex Barnes for taking over as president. I'm not sure how he can do more for WSS. He already opens and closes, does all our public relations and a big part of the "dirty" work (bathroom and building cleanup). Now he's at the head of the table with the gavel in his hand. I'm looking forward to working with Rex.

While on the subject of hard work I have to mention Don deMars. Don is there first thing in the morning and is the last to leave. He knows where everything is and has the key to every lock. He sweeps, cleans, empties trash cans and is our photographer. Got anything else for him to do? Personally, I can't possibly keep up with him. He deserves a thank you from all of us here at WSS.

Well, now on to the new. Please give a big welcome to the board, Jimmy Boehnke and Jeff Tilton. It will

Continued next column

Editor's Letter continued from previous column

be a pleasure working with these two guys. We have decided to feature all our board members in future issues, so keep an eye out for that.

Check out our Mike Gross review and top ten this issue. It's always fun and educational, but this month we have our very own Geoff Miller and Sactown Playboys reviewed. They also made Mike's top ten. What a big deal!

I'd also like to bring to your attention our list of events and bands on page 13. We usually don't advertise individual events but check out the new addition for Eddie Burr and his band playing in January.

See Ya Soon, Ronnie Elkan *co-editor*

NOMINATIONS FOR INDUCTEES INTO THE 2019 WSS HALL OF FAME NOW BEING ACCEPTED !

Reminder: if you are either a former inductee or a member in good standing (dues paid to date), you can submit two candidates per year for consideration by the Nominations Committee.

While our last big celebration is fresh in your memories, get your nominees submitted! It is so easy!

Have someone in mind? Talk to a Board member and we'll get you the information you need to get started.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD—CHARLIE HULL

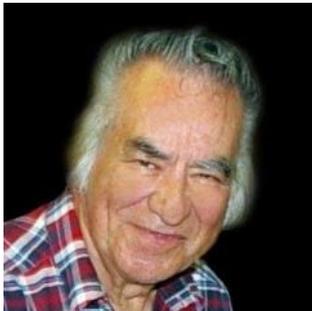
I truly appreciate the Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed on me by the Society. In truth, as president I got a lot of credit for the achievements of great board members and volunteers. While my life situation limits full participation, it's gratifying to see the Western Swing Society continuing to do its thing for the musicians and dancers; all made possible by volunteers and dedicated Board members. Bless them! My band will be guesting at the January, 2019 session, so I'm looking forward to re-connecting with friends and fellow musicians.

Happy holidays to all.

Charlie Hull

MEET THE BOARD: TONY ARANA, PART 1

We've had some requests to introduce you to our board members, so we will plan on an article each month to highlight their backgrounds and why they love Western Swing music.



Western Swing veteran Tony Arana was born in Los Angeles in 1938 and began drumming in earnest after leaving the United States Navy in 1960. Learning along with his band mates in The Green Valley Boys, Tony's talents were honed

and his love of Country and Western music grew under the care and guidance of Al Workman and others. After seeing Leon McAuliffe and his eight-piece Western Swing Band in Seattle one night, Tony says, "I knew that was the type of music I wanted to play and I played it every chance I got."

Tony got a lot of chances to play the music he loved with Al Workman, Jim Snyder, Vern Plank, Chuck Smith, Tommy Price, Dick Heil and the Barnstormers, Don Berkshire and the Bootleggers, Johnny Clark, Shirley LaBoyne and the Cottonwoods, Gale Thielen, The Anderson Brothers – Merle and Arvid, Bob MacAvoy, Johnny Wakely, and numerous others. Tony has backed up artists such as Tex Williams, Bobby Bare and Bobby Helms. "I couldn't possibly remember all the musicians I worked with," Tony said, "but I'd like to thank them all for having a good time and making great music."

Tony met Steve Vaughn, future founder of the Seattle Western Swing Music Society in the mid 70's when he was playing with the Bootleggers. Steve talked to Tony about his ideas for a Seattle chapter of the Western Swing Music Society (now known as the Northwest Western Swing Music Society, or NWWSMS) designed to promote and preserve the music that the two men loved. Steve spent time with Tony and the Bootleggers and soon the wheels started to turn and Steve's dream came true.

Tony is currently a resident of Reno, Nevada. He is a charter member of the Seattle Western Swing Music Society (now NWWSMS), and was elected Vice

Continued next column

Meet the Board—Continued from previous column

President in 1986. He was inducted into that Society's Pioneers of Western Swing in 2001, and has been a faithful participant in their ongoing festivities every year.

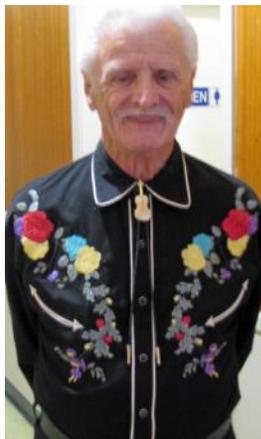
Tony still plays Western Swing at every opportunity and was inducted on October 1, 2006 into our Western Swing Society Hall of Fame. The Western Swing Society is forever grateful to Tony for hosting our monthly jam sessions during our dances. He volunteers in so many other ways, welding safety locks for our storage unit, helping to set up and clean up, and is always there with a smile.

If you haven't personally met this fine fellow, stop Tony at the next dance and introduce yourself!

Board Meeting Invitation

You can attend the Society's monthly Board meetings; first Sunday of each month starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Machinists Hall in Rancho Cordova.

LOOKING GOOD!



CUTTIN' THE RUG!



Photos by Don deMars



Bill Enyeart and Dry Creek
*L to R: Tom Phelps, Ronnie Elkan,
Jimmy Baughman, John Bush,
Bill Enyeart, Bill Cornet, Billy Smith,
Lenny Serdahl Jr., Rob Shotwell*



ALBUM REVIEWS

by Mike Gross



Album: Sactown Playboys

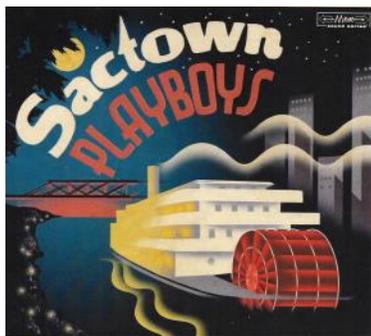
Artist: Sactown Playboys

This is a wonderful new CD of 14 tunes by three very talented Sacramento area musicians and two other

special guest musicians that

are heard on most other tunes on the album. The Sactown Playboys are Geoff Miller- guitar and vocal, Zack Sapunor- upright bass and vocal and Olen Dillingham- electric mandolin and fiddle. The special guests are Derek McDonald- drums and the wonderful steel guitar of Billy Wilson.

The album includes many from the Bob Wills library. It opens with the instrumental, penned by Wills, *You Just Take Her*. There are also so many other recreations from the Bob Wills songbook which include Cindy Walker's *I Hear You Talkin'*, Junior Barnard and Bob's instrumental *Fat Boy Rag*, *Fan it* and another from Cindy's prolific pen, *Blues for Dixie*. Also borrowed from Wills are *Who*



Walks in When I Walk Out, Leon McAuliffe and Eldon Shamblin's instrumental, *Twin Guitar Special*, Wills and Rusty McDonald's *I Didn't Realize* and Bob

Wills and Harley Huggins' *I'm Feelin' Bad*. There is also the instrumental *Subterfuge*, and from both Roy Rogers and the Crosby/ Andrews Sisters team is borrowed the western standard *Along the Navajo Trail*. There

Continued on Page 13

PICTURES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT

Pictures are now available online. A link will be available for each month's dance pictures in the newsletter and on our website

<http://westernswingsociety.net/>.

12-2-2018 Monthly Dance

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cx93vGezBG33qVmk9>

FREE DANCE LESSONS BEFORE EACH DANCE!

12:30 to 1:00 pm prior to our first band starting

Learn the 2-STEP and other couples dances!!! You do not have to have a partner to learn! Just get to the hall by 12:15 so you're ready to start on time.



Sactown Playboys continued from prev. column is also from the Hawkshaw Hawkins pen and library *Teardrops From My Eyes*, the pop standard *Dinah* and the album closes and changes moods completely from the Pee Wee King library with *Catty Town*.

The album is available either digitally or as an actual CD on www.bandcamp.com

Mike Gross, KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX & KTNK-AM, Lompoc, CA November 5, 2018





Mike Gross Top 10

"Swingin' West"- Mike Gross
KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX
December 1, 2018

Songs

- 1 Swing Time Baby- Steel Horse Swing
- 2 King of the Blues- Western Caravan
- 3 One Fiddle, Two Fiddles- Bret Raper
- 4 Texas When it Swings- Terry Brown (THA)
- 5 Swing Me Back to Texas- 3 Trails West
- 6 South of the Border- Syd Masters (Vision)
- 7 In the Middle of the Song- Western Swing Authority & Carolyn Martin
- 8 Crawfish and Cowboys- Johnny Angel & Helldorado (Deuce)
- 9 Cowboy Boogaloo Blues- Dawn Anita (Free Country)
- 10 Go Tell it on the Mountain- Barry Ward

Albums

- 1 Swing Time Baby- Steel Horse Swing
- 2 Honky Tonk- Western Caravan
- 3 Time Changes Everything- Leon Rausch
- 4 Somewhere Near Austin- Bret Raper
- 5 Taryn Noelle Swings- Taryn Noelle (Airflyte)
- 6 Off the Beaten Trail- Hot Texas Swing Band
- 7 Sactown Playboys- Sactown Playboys
- 8 Big Hat, No Cattle- Big Hat, No Cattle
- 9 Big Deal- The Western Swing Authority
- 10 Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend - Tommy Thomsen

Western Swing Society Board Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2018-10:38 AM

Roll Call: Board members present: Chuck, Rex, Linda, Jimmy, Ronnie, Olen, Tony, Edd and Dave

Guests: Don deMars, Janet Jimenez, John James

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved

President's Report: Chuck and the rest of the board spoke about next month's change in board officers. Issues involving government forms that need to be filed, and our tax status were also topics of discussion.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer reported that we made a small profit in November and we continue to have a prudent reserve in our bank account.

Public Relations: Rex suggested some ways to improve our HOF celebration, including a dinner or breakfast. A mid-year event was discussed. It was noted that we have had some volunteers step forward in answer to our requests for help with PR. A motion was made and passed to serve cake at our January dance.

Newsletter : Ronnie recounted A drive issues encountered the past month during newsletter publication. A motion was made and passed to buy an external hard drive for our society's computer storage.

Web Master: Dave is updating the web page and is searching for some missing HOF photos.

New Business: There was a discussion on how to attract dancers to our monthly events.

Adjourn: 11:51 AM



OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS

Bakersfield Country Music Museum, P.O. Box 81623, Bakersfield CA 93380-1623. Call 661-366-6003 24/7 for more information.

Buck Ford & Pure Country Band: Check Website for schedule, <http://www.buckford.com/calendar/>

Canadian Western Swing Music Society, Contact: John York, 3565 Cambridge St., Vancouver, BC, Canada V5K 1M3. Phone 604-299-2301.

CA Old Time Fiddlers Association, Meets 2nd Sunday. Orangevale Grange on Walnut Avenue in Orangevale, CA. [www.cbaontheweb.org/region_details.asp? Region 2](http://www.cbaontheweb.org/region_details.asp?Region%202)

Cowtown Society of Western Music, Contact: Joe Baker, Membership Director, 940-452-6300, 4361 F.M. 1195, Mineral Springs, TX 76067

Eddie Burr & His HOF Band @ Straw Hat Pizza 2929 Mather Field Rd. Rancho Cordova 95670 on Wednesday January 2, 2019 (6:30-8:30pm)

Greater Arizona Country/Western Swing Association and Hall of Fame, Inc. PO Box 953, Dewey, AZ 86326. Contact Jim Gamble at 928-458-0714.

Lincoln Highway Band, 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-5pm, Ramada Inn, 2600 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, \$6.00 cover. 4th Sunday of the month, 1-4pm, VFW POST 4647, 3300 U Street, North Highlands, \$5.00 cover. Information call (916) 580-7390.

Northwest Western Swing Music Society, Contact: Jeannie Yearian, President, 425-432-7888, or cell 206-271-2295, Lynnwood Eagles, 19223 Hwy. 99, Lynnwood, WA. **Meets 2nd Sunday** www.nwwsms.com

Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest, PO Box 644, Shattuck, OK 73858. **Meets quarterly.** Go to website at: www.wsmss.com.



CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE!

We all enjoy the dance at the Machinist's Hall each month. What I wish to do with this article is to let you know how much effort and money it takes to produce this event. The dance costs approximately \$1200 each month for hall rental, setup fees, insurance and decorations. All of the work of our board of directors, our monthly volunteers, and the wonderful musicians who provide the music is completely without compensation.

Some travel here from as far away as Redding to be here for this event. We work very hard to provide an excellent product at a very modest price, and I believe we succeed. We try to keep the cost for admission as low as possible so that everyone can afford to be here to enjoy the music and dancing.

In order to keep the admission fee low, we are asking all who can afford it to make a donation, either one time or on a monthly basis. We will be placing a donation jar at the entrance to the dance hall. We of the Board of Directors thank you for providing as generous a contribution for which you are comfortable.

Thank you, *Eddie Burr, Treasurer*

MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

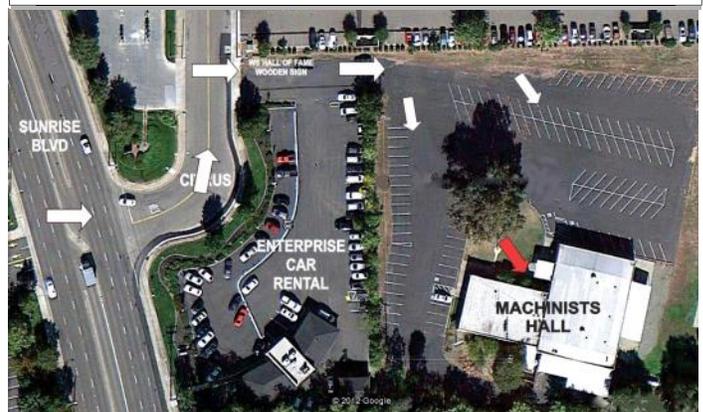
The Western Swing Society holds a music and dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands and artists and jam sets.

1:00 pm to 5:30 pm at The Machinists Hall
2749 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA*

Donation: \$5 for Members; \$8 for Non-Members

For information, browse to
www.westernswingsociety.net

*The address is Sunrise, but the driveway is on Citrus.



Driving Instructions to MACHINISTS HALL: From Hwy 50, take the Sunrise Blvd. South exit and cross two lights (Folsom Blvd. and Trade Center Drive). After crossing Trade Center, be in the left lane and take the next left turn which is Citrus Road. You will see an Enterprise Car Rental lot in front of you. Turn right into the driveway just past Enterprise. You'll see our sign, and you are there. Park, come in and join the fun.

RARE VIDEO OF BOB WILLS AND HIS TEXAS PLAYBOYS IN RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO

Thank you to Bobby and Judy Koefer for submitting this wonderful article and video link to Jeanne Yearian, and thanks to Jeanne for forwarding to our WSS editors so that we can share this rare video and the story that goes with it!

Hi Jeanne,

I thought you and all the gang up there would appreciate and enjoy seeing this video I'm sending.

I was playing steel with the Bob Wills Texas Playboys when this was filmed and recorded at the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium in Ruidoso, New Mexico. This was in 1990. We were featured on it for 26 years straight, in October of each year. I never missed a one of those years.

This is Very Rare. This was the very first one. I suggest that you read the entire history as it is written here. It won't take you long. .

The flood of people, hitting the dance floor, all dancing to the Bob Wills Texas Playboys beat is very impressive.

I hope you can show this in a way where everyone can see it. They will all love it and I will appreciate it very much.

Please forward this entire message, along with the story and video, to the proper person in the Sacramento Western Swing Society, if possible.

Thank you and best wishes,

Bobby and Judy Koefer



Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium

Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino • Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico

MUSIC CHUCKWAGONS WESTERN EXPO
EQUESTRIAN DEMONSTRATIONS NM TRUE FAMILY FUN
HISTORY



BEHIND EVERY GREAT VISION THERE IS A VISIONARY. MEET RAY REED.

In 1990, the first Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium was held in Glencoe, New Mexico, at the Glencoe Rural Events Center. This “festival to preserve and promote the cowboy way of life” was a vision that musician Ray Reed had been formulating in his mind for some time. Ray, a guitar picker, composer, bandleader, poet, promoter, singer and storyteller extraordinaire, was above all else a cowboy.

Ray was proud of the fact that his family moved west to New Mexico in the early 1900s. Traveling in a covered wagon, the Reed family settled outside of Clovis, New Mexico, and cowboyin’ became a way of life for

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Ray. He had musical talent both as a singer and a guitar player. Hitching a ride in a boxcar in the 1930s he headed to California where he became part of the music scene in Los Angeles. He also met western swing legend Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys band. He became friends with many of the Playboy band members. When the drug scene took its toll on several of Ray's California musician friends, he headed back to New Mexico.

Gene Hensley, owner of the racetrack in Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico, needed help in promoting his track to the Hollywood institutions and Ray had the right connections. Ray was hired to promote Hensley's "Little Quarter Horse Track." Loading his pickup truck with bourbon whiskey and his guitar, Ray went from ranch to ranch recruiting horses for the World's Richest Quarter Horse race, the All American Futurity. For Ray Reed, the culture of the American Cowboy—music, horses, and the cowboy way of life—became his way of life. In his words,

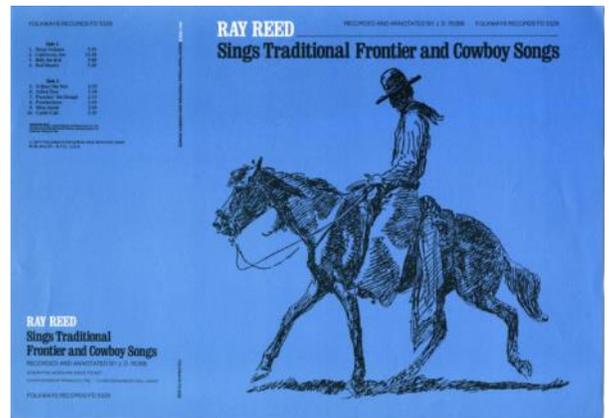
"I've been an entertainer dang near all my life. I do all the old cowboy songs from years back. I was raised a cowboy and that's what I've been."

— Ray Reed

But it soon seemed to Ray that his beloved culture was disappearing. A man of vision, he wanted a week-long festival highlighting his cowboy culture in the best light possible. Such a festival, he felt, would encourage others and promote and preserve that culture.

In 1989 Ray performed at the Inaugural National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration in Lubbock, Texas. The response he saw there was inspiring. It convinced him that good, fresh entertainment was what people were searching for. But he wanted more out of his festival than what he observed at the Lubbock event. Originally he envisioned Lincoln County, New Mexico, home of outlaw Billy the Kid, cattleman John Chisum and the Lincoln County War, as the setting for his cowboy symposium. Lincoln County was geographically situated in the south central mountains of New Mexico and embraced three distinct cultures responsible for the settlement of the west—Native American, Hispanic and the American Cowboy. He would bring these three distinct cultures together by showcasing the American Cowboy, who would share the stage with Mariachi entertainers and Mescalero Apache tribal members performing their original songs and dances.

Western swing music took center stage in his vision and would be accomplished by bringing in Johnny Gimble and reviving the Bob Wills' Texas Playboys. And to top off this festival honoring the American Cowboy was something near and dear to the cowboy's stomach, the chuckwagon.



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Ray’s dream came to fruition with the financial contributions and backing of current Ruidoso Downs racetrack owner, R. D. Hubbard and Hondo Oil and Gas owner, R. O. Anderson. That, plus the assistance of countless volunteers including R. O.’s cattleman, Sid Goodloe, the first Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium was held at the Glencoe Rural Events Center in 1990.

Since that early beginning, the Symposium has been featured on the Food Channel and outgrew its original site. It was moved to the site of the Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino.



Ray Reed passed away in the winter of 1998. He was doing what he loved to do best, promoting the Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium on the road in his familiar “winny-bagy” (Winnebago).

To see the entire story and [video online](https://www.cowboysymposium.org/history/), click the link below:

<https://www.cowboysymposium.org/history/>

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