

News Flash! **Sad News NO DANCE I Repeat NO DANCE on May 3, 2020**



DUNCAN ELLEDGE

Inducted Oct. 6, 2019



JOE BLASINGAME

Inducted Oct. 6, 1985

Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 4

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NO DANCE on May 3,
We are sorry to inform all
our great people that we
have to CANCEL our May
3 dance due to the pandemic
(Coronavirus)
STAY SAFE EVERYONE



The Western Swing Society

PO Box 2474

Carmichael, CA 95609

westernswingsociety.net

Facebook: SacramentoWestemSwingSociety

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

Officers:

President, Rex Barnes (916) 704-1566

Vice Pres, Jimmy Boehnke (530) 886-8375

Treasurer, Edward Burhans (916) 225-3645

Secretary, Cheryl Dearborn

Other Directors:

Tony Arana (775) 971-3070

Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345

Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463

Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520

Jeff Tilton (916) 798-9377

Staff and Committee Chairpersons:

Admissions Coordinator, Linda McCarley

Bar Manager, Jimmy Boehnke

Bartender, Cyndi Lee

Decorating Chair, Rex Barnes

Equipment and Staging, Gary Blodgett

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Tony Arana

Master of Ceremonies, Jimmy Boehnke

Membership Director, (open)

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, Donald deMars

Public Relations Administrator, Jeff Tilton

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, (open)

Sound Engineer, Gary Blodgett

Website, Dave Rietz

EDITOR'S LETTER

Hey Folks, still here. That's the good news. Other then that this "Shelter-in-place" is getting old. Like all of you I'm not sure what it's all going to look like when they give us the go sign. Are we all gonna come down the third base line and decide to go back to third only to find out we are in a pickle? Or are we going all the way home?

I know our dancers are more then ready to get out. We have the best bunch of folks anywhere there is a gathering. It will be different when we do get out, I just want to make sure everyone is comfortable when we do have a dance. So what ever that looks like I'm ready.

Until that happens, those of us who have Facebook are being treated to all kinds of concerts and dance parties. Check out Hall of Famer, Gary Blodgett and his wife Lynn. Learn to play guitar, hahaha, and Lynn will show you some dance steps. Hall of Famer, Dan Cribb and Hall of Famers, Ronnie and Shelley Elkan are also out there on Facebook.

I sure do miss our dances and all our great friends. This picture is what "Social Distancing" has always been for your editor and I'm not sure if it will ever be the same. This was our Dr. Bob as we all knew him. I can't help but write this with a tear in my eye!



We will go month to month on our dances. Right now we can't even get a permit to have a dance. So to all of you, **STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**

Your Editor, Ronnie Elkan

TURKEY TEXAS NEWS

[Bob Wills Day, Turkey, Texas](#)

[April 25 at 6:00 PM](#)

Happy Bob Wills Day 2020! We're all sad we can't be in Turkey today celebrating, but we hope you enjoy this--Jason Roberts with a little Bob and the boys from the garage! Remember, Bob Wills Day isn't canceled, it's just rescheduled! We'll do it in Turkey on Oct. 8, 9 and 10! Thank you to everyone for helping make this happen!!

UPCOMING BANDS

June

Slade Rivers Band



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.

DUNCAN ELLEDGE

Inducted October 5, 2019



I was born in Sacramento, California on May 24, 1953. I started playing guitar when I was 9 years old because at the time I wanted to be like Roy Orbison. In the 5th grade I joined a surf band called the Sandfleas (I know, it's a pretty

catchy name) which enjoyed some moderate success. Our first gig was at the Carmichael 4th of July celebration held at Carmichael Park which is where we got "discovered" by a fella named Ray Puckett who worked part time at the Bill Race Studios in Carmichael. His real job was a checker at the local Safeway store. He got us into the studio and eventually got on the Bill Race show, a low budget, local television variety show. Ray even tried to get us an opening spot for Triny Lopez at the old Trophy Room in Sacramento but the owner wasn't about to let a bunch of 10 and 11 year olds on stage in his bar. However, we did get to hang out with Triny and the band for a day.

I was raised in a big old house off of Fair Oaks Blvd about 3 miles from what by then had become Wills Plunge, a public pool where my pals and I would ride bikes and spend the day swimming. My parents purchased this house in 1941 and they told me stories about the Wills Point Ball Room and dancing to Billy Jack and the band. I grew up listening to KRAK radio and plenty of western swing on our phonograph. Although as a teen, rock and roll had every guitar player's attention, the seeds had been planted.

As I came of age I was drawn to country rock and played with various local bands at the Stoney Inn, The Old Shire Road Pub, The National Hotel and anywhere else we could get a couple bucks, beer and tips.

I had a buddy in high school, Clay Smith who really turned me on to the walking bass lines in the western swing guitar chord progressions. I think the old Bob Wills tune Miss Molly was the one that really hooked me. From then on I couldn't get enough. In every set I played with my country rock bands I threw in some of those tunes and the hippies loved em!

Continued page 5

JOE BLASINGAME

Born June 6, 1941—Died August 4, 2010

Inducted October 6, 1985

Joe was sixteen when he started playing guitar, this was in 1957. He and his brother Ray and Earl started a band in 1965. The first place they played was the Know Hole in Rio Linda, California, for \$10/night each. Then in 1966 they played for Lloyd Hickey for about 6 years and, in that time, he also played casuals such as Lake Berryessa. He also played the Folsom Rodeo with Eddie Jerkins, at the Derby Club with Freddie Hart. Then He and Freddie did a TV show called the Forty Grand Country with Eddie Dean. He also played with Leroy Totem and the Rhythm Kings.

In 1969, Joe, Leroy and Ran, his brother, went to Arizona and played there about two months. While he was there, he played with Rex Allen Jr.

After that he played casuals with Mike Kericafe and the Best of Friends. He played at the Moose lodge, the Eagles lodge, the Elks lodge, the Legion Picnic (1983, 84, 85), the first annual Turtle Race, the second annual Bed race in Lodi. They also played at Rough and Reddy Island for the officers club, then he played at Bear River and for the Jerry Lewis telethon at the moose lodge, a benefit for muscular dystrophy. After that he played several benefits: one for a lady with cancer, one for a family whose house burned down, and one was for a handicapped girl. He also played for the elderly.

He played at the Uptown Saloon with Cliff Davis and the Country Attraction. At the time of this award was playing with Dwayne Sharrah at the Cherokee Music Hall in Galt California.

Update: Joe passed away in Redding, Ca on August, 4, 2010.



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

Elk Grove 2740 Auburn Blvd.,
(916) 686 - 5666 Sacramento, CA 95821
www.skipsmusic.com (916) 484 - 7575





We do appreciate the ongoing help. You all have really chipped in. It makes the job for our volunteers much easier.



NEW MENU FOOD AVAILABLE
NEW! The Chef's Salads will be a continuing item and guests can choose either Turkey or ham.
 We now also have the ability to accept credit cards. All credit card transactions will have a \$.50 surcharge added.
 Thank you to the American Legion Post #9 for providing us with delicious hot food at our monthly dances!
 Please check out our new menu!!!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
 If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact President, Rex Barnes (916-704-1566)
 Needs/Skills:

- Word processing
- Photo editing
- Set up and tear down assistance



Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest



2020 Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
 Lawton, Oklahoma
 July 9, 10, 11

Congratulations 2020 Inductees!

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Lowell (Red) Arwood</i> | <i>Fairfax Station, VA</i> |
| <i>Al Dressen</i> | <i>Buda, TX</i> |
| <i>Greg Hardy</i> | <i>Irving, TX</i> |
| <i>Jackie Harmon</i> | <i>Sherman, TX</i> |
| <i>Cameron Hill</i> | <i>(posthumous)</i> |
| <i>Roger Keck</i> | <i>Gordon, TX</i> |
| <i>Harlan Kubos</i> | <i>Moulton, TX</i> |
| <i>Larry Reed</i> | <i>Weatherford, TX</i> |
| <i>Dexter Rowe</i> | <i>Texarkana, TX</i> |
| <i>Paul Schlesinger</i> | <i>Taylor, TX</i> |
| <i>Robert Weeks</i> | <i>Graham, TX</i> |
| <i>Jimmy Wyble</i> | <i>(posthumous)</i> |

Notice: Due to the uncertain nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, WSMSS is assessing the situation on a weekly basis and will continue to think of the safety and wellbeing of our members and guests as our highest priority. WSMSS plans to make a final decision sometime in early June as to whether or not to hold the 2020 Hall of Fame induction ceremony. In the event the 2020 Hall of Fame induction ceremony is cancelled, we plan to honor the 2020 inductees in 2021

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, May3, 2020
MAY DANCE CANCELED
 FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING PLEASURE



Dunnican Elledge continued from page 3

When I was 24 years old I saw Dan Hicks open up for the Kinks at Winterland in San Francisco and I decided I was gonna find an upright bass player and start a little acoustic band but to my surprise, there were no upright players around, at least not my age. So, still determined, I saw the writing on the wall. What the world needed were more young upright bass players! There must have been 100's of other guys with the same idea at that time because within 10 years they were a lot easier to find.

I started playing upright and it opened up a whole new set of very interesting doors. I played with the fabulous pedal steel/banjo player Eric West, Greg Willet's jazz trio, Quick Draw, The Eddies. Then about 12 years ago I heard that Gary and Vicki Campbell might be looking for a bass player for their band, the one and only Stardust Cowboys. I'd enjoyed their music over the years and was always so impressed by their incredible original songs. They were familiar with my playing from my years with The Eddies. None the less, Gary asked me if I'd stop by their house and talk... "and bring yer bass". It was an audition and I didn't blame him when you have a stable of musicians like the Stardust Cowboys, not just anyone gets the honor to join. I passed the audition and the rest is history. I have to say though, for 10 years I was the newbie.

My relationship with Gary and Vicki has been nothing short of delightful. They made me feel at home from the very beginning, and through their huge musical family I have met some of the finest musicians and made friendships that will last me the rest of my life. People like Ronnie and Shelley Elkan, Olen and Mary Dillingham, Rob and Cecelia Shotwell, just to name a few. These friendships have not only brought me great personal joy but they have also taken me on many wonderful musical adventures. These wonderful friends are responsible for opening the doors to the Sacramento Western Swing Society where I have had the privilege for many years to perform onstage with some of western swing's most prominent players. I can now boast that I have played with The Stardust Cowboys, Bite the Bullet, The Tepid Club of Cool, The Sactown Playboys, Carolyn Martin, Bobby Black, Billy Wilson... what a great ride! Thanks! Yer all the best!



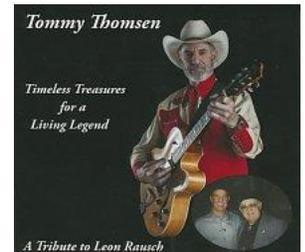
MIKE GROSS REVIEW

This is the editors chance to let re-read a great review from Mike. This is couple from our very own, Tommy Thomsen and Sactown Playboys. If you don't have these CDs you need to get them.

Album: Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend
Artist: Tommy Thomsen

This new CD is a wonderful combination of 15 songs where Tommy pays tribute to Western Swing legend Leon Rausch. The music opens from the Bob Wills songbook with the old pop standard brought back by Wills, *Yearning* and then from Pee Wee King *Gad About*. Also from Bob Wills are Lee Ross' *Heart to Heart Talk*, O.W. Mayo's *Blues for Dixie*, Cindy Walker's *Goin' Away Party*, *End of the Line* and the standard *Sittin' on Top of the World*. Then from the Wills library there is *Hang Your Head in Shame*, *I Laugh When I Think How I Cried Over You* and Cindy Walker's *Baby That Sure Would Go Good*. Also brought back are the Wills compositions and hits, *My Confession*, *Goodby Liza Jane*, *Sooner or Later* and *Goodnight Little Sweetheart Goodnight*. The album closes with the instrumental from the Wills book and the Andy Razaf pen, *Silver Lake Blues*.

Tommy is the lead vocalist with Albert Tally playing steel guitar, Brady Bowen- fiddle and vocal harmony and the fiddle, electric mandolin, vocals and steel guitar of Jason Roberts. Larry Reed plays sax, Tony Ramsey- drums and John Jones plays stand-up bass and does vocal harmonies. Wayne Glasson



Continued on page 8

BRAND NEW AT THE WESTERN SWING SOCIETY by Edd Burhans



Jacket Front with Fitted Ball Cap



Jacket Back



T- Shirts

Small - Extra Large \$15.00
2 XL \$17.00

Polo Shirts (Men's & Women's)

Small - Extra Large \$20.00
2 XL \$22.00

Onesies \$12.00

Caps \$20.00

Jackets

Small - Extra Large \$78.00
2 XL \$82.00
3 XL \$85.00
4 XL \$90.00

All Prices Include Sales Tax



Merchandise is available at our monthly dances and at our annual Hall of Fame.

Jackets and Polo shirts can be customized with name for additional cost.

Brand New: Womens and Girls V-top Tee. The red in the logo is glitter.

It will sell for \$18 Small thru Extra Large. \$20 for a XXL





HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

THE TIMING

January 1—May 31st: Submissions of nominees for consideration accepted from a member in good standing

June: Hall of Fame Selection Committee reviews and chooses 12 nominees to be inducted in the Hall of Fame. Nominations must adhere to the rules and be complete in order to be considered. Any submissions not chosen roll forward to the next year for consideration

July: Board signs off on the chosen inductees. Inductees are notified and told about our Hall of Fame Event details

August: List of inductees first appear in the newsletter

September: Photos of inductees appear in newsletter. List of HOF bands in newsletter

October: The three day celebration, culminating in the Induction Ceremony on Sunday

HOW TO AND THE RULES

Let's have another inspiring set of inductees for the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame event, the 1st Friday—Sunday in October. ***The closing date for submission of nominations is May 31st. Start NOW. Time FLIES!***

Any member in good standing may make 2 nominations, by either postal or email.

An 8 x 10 hard copy photo or a digital jpeg (at least res. 300 dpi) is required at the time of nomination.

The nomination should contain sufficient biographical information to enable the committee to evaluate the nominee's qualifications.

Nominations must include the name (as they wish it to appear in our Hall of Fame registry), address, phone numbers and email addresses (if available) for the nominee **and** the person submitting them. If the nominee is deceased, please include the name of a person who may be able to accept the award.

Mail to: Western Swing Nominations Committee,
P. O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609

It's Easy!

Nominate a musician or exceptional volunteer for this year's Hall of Fame

Time is running out. May 31st is the last date to submit your nominations for our Hall of Fame celebration!

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is a BIG HONOR, so submit a nomination and make someone's day!

1. The name, address, phone and email of member submitting the nomination
2. The name, address, phone and email of the nominee
3. The nominee's name as the nominee wants it shown in the bio and on the Hall of Fame registry
4. Biographical information about the nominee, with emphasis on involvement with Western Swing Music.
 - Birthplace and date.
 - Age at which participation in music began? How? Singing? Playing an instrument?
 - Early inspirations and influences?
 - Time and place of first professional performance.
 - Name of well-known bands and/or performers with which nominee has played.
 - Names of well-known locations where nominee has performed.
 - List of any awards or formal recognitions received by the nominee related to his or her music career.
 - Nominee's personal reasons for involvement in and support of Western Swing Music.

See the instructions in the previous column and email or mail your completed nomination information so that it is received by WSS no later than May 31st.

DON'T FORGET to include *your* phone, email and the *nominee's* phone, email and mailing address so that we can contact you.

Mike Cross Review continued from page 5
 plays piano, Tom Jones standard guitar and clarinet and vocal harmonies by Gil Prather.
 This CD can be obtained for \$20.00 from Tommy Thomsen, 20570 Pueblo Rd, Sonoma, CA 95476. November 25, 2018

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 is also



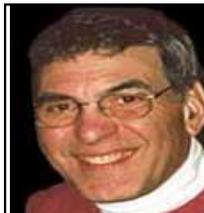
Continued next column

Mike Gross Continued

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 both digitally or as an actual CD on www.bandcamp.com.

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



Mike Gross Top 10

"Swingin' West"- Mike Gross
 KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX
 May 1, 2020

Songs

- 1 Little Bit of Texas- Carlos Washington's Steel Horse Swing
- 2 Wild Texas Rose- Jimmy Burson
- 3 Wandrin' Star- Kristyn Harris (Horsefly)
- 4 There's Not a Cow in Texas - Rod Moag (Tex Trax)
- 5 Don't You Dare- Curio Cowboys (Ruido)
- 6 In the Middle of the Song- Western Swing Authority & Carolyn Martin
- 7 Rainbow Song- Jimmy Burson
- 8 Route 66- Mike Faast
- 9 10 San Antonio Rose- Jan Schiferl
- Stardust Ballroom- Nancy Elliott

Albums

- 1 Little Bit of Texas- Carlos Washington's Steel Horse Swing
- 2 Room in Your Heart- Curio Cowboys (Ruido)
- 3 Lone Star Dust- Jimmy Burson
- 4 Sactown Playboys- Sactown Playboys
- 5 A Place to Land- Kristyn Harris
- 6 Swing Set- Lee Lee Robert (Musikode)
- 7 Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend - Tommy Thomsen

Continued Pg 9

OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS

Buck Ford & Pure Country Band: Check Website for schedule, <https://buckford.com/events/>

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)

Carolyn Sills Combo: <https://www.carolynsills.com/>

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

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

Hot Club of Cowtown: <https://hotclubofcowtown.com/>

Lincoln Highway Band, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, 1-4pm, Ramada Inn, 2600 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, \$6.00 cover. Information call (916) 580-7390. <https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhighwaybandca/>

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

Sactown Playboys @ <https://www.facebook.com/sactownpbs/>

Slade Rivers Band: <https://sladeriversband.com/events/>

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



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.

Mike Gross Top 10 - Continued from page 8

8 Ridin' Ropin' & Rounders- Rusted Spurs West

9 Big Deal- The Western Swing Authority

10 Shadows of What Used to Be- Emily George



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 95609; or email it to

membership@westernswingsociety.net
Thanks! Keep on Western Swingin'

MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

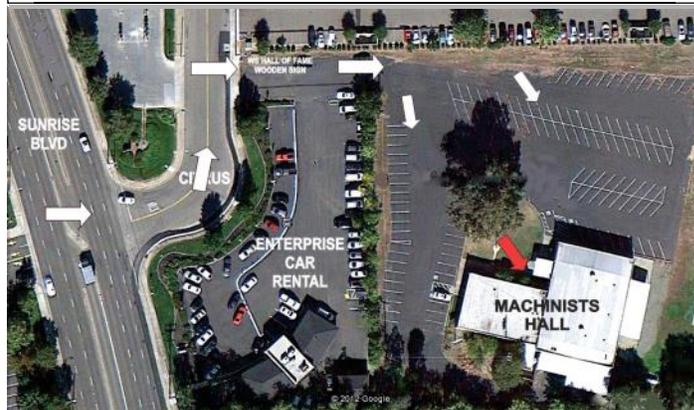
The Western Swing Society holds a music and dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands and artists and jam sets.

1:00 pm to 5:00 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.