



MUSIC NEWS

Published by the Western Swing Society, Sacramento, California
Founded in 1981 by Loyd and Perry Jones

Volume 40, Number 05

May 2022

- * It's time to get your nominations in for Hall of Fame nominees! See pg 5.
- * PARKING at the dance becoming a problem, Carpooling is a good option!
- * Great Dance planned for Sunday May 1st!



LEON RICHARDSON

Inducted Oct. 4, 1987

Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 3



ZACK SAPUNOR

Inducted Oct. 3, 2021

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GUEST BAND
Sunday, May 1, 2022



Mae McCoy
& Her Neon Stars
1:00 to 3:00pm

Followed by
The "House Band"
3:00 to 5:00pm

The Western Swing Society

PO Box 2474

Carmichael, CA 95609

westernswingociety.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 Pres, Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345
Treas, Linda Swanson (530) 383-1129
Secretary, Doug Weiss

Other Directors:

Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463
Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520
Jeff Tilton (916) 798-9377
Mary Harris (916) 991-3100
Mae McCoy (916) 873-2023

Staff and Committee Chairpersons:

Admissions Coord, Linda McCarley
Bar Manager, Cyndi Lee
Bartender, Cyndi Lee
Community Outreach, Mae McCoy
Decorating Chair, Rex Barnes
Equipment and Staging, Gary Blodgett
Historian, (open)
Jam Room, Tony Arana
Master of Ceremonies, Terry Crouson
Membership Director, (open)
Music Director, Ronnie Elkan
Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan
Photographer, Mary Harris
Public Relations, Jeff Tilton
Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall
Slide Show, Janet Jimenez
Sound Engineer, Gary Blodgett
Website Manager, Dave Rietz

Letter from The Editor



Well, our last dance is going to be hard to beat. Bob Woods and his band were on fire with the sound of Bob Wills music. If you're gonna go anywhere to hear this brand of music it has to be at WSS.

Before I get too far with the band I want to thank our folks. You members keep this organization going and I can't say enough to all of you that support our society.

Another really wonderful thing happened to WSS on Sunday. House Band members Rob Shotwell and Bill Cornett

teamed up to donate a beautiful new set of drums to WSS. I am stunned. Bill hunted the drums down and designed the incredible artwork. He also polished them to a shine. Rob came up with the idea and the \$++. Bill also donated hardware, cases, and a lot of time. Thanks boys from all of us, especially the drummers who had to play the old set.

Back to the Bob Woods Bob Wills Tribute. Bob carried lead guitar and vocals; Juliet Gobert palyed rhythm guitar and vocal; Skip Smith played drums; Olen Dillingham and Ronnie Elkan played fiddle and mandolin; Brett Cole played stand up

JAM ROOM JAMMERS



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.

Come in and join in, you can listen or sign up to play and/or sing.



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:

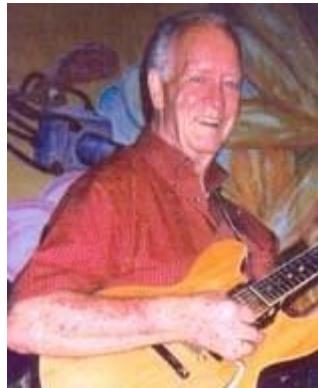
All items, photographs, articles, and ad's are due to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month.

Continued on page 3

LEON RICHARDSON

Inducted October 3, 1987

Born March 19, 1931 Died July 6, 2009



Guitar Player Leon Richardson (who worked with Little Jimmy Dickens and Ray Price) passed away July 6 at 5a.m. He was west coast hot picker and friend of Buddy Emmons, Al Bruno and my dad and many others. I was honored to get to play with Leon on his instrumental CD #3

four years ago. You had to be on your toes to play with Leon.

Leon was living in Modesto, CA, working a day gig and gigging nights at a local club. Apparently, he was tired of the road and settled in Modesto for a while.

His reputation preceded him. His advanced harmonic concept was amazing! He improvised all night in a jazzy country style. He was a very gifted player and a very nice person.

Editor's Letter continued from page 2

bass; Joe Ybarra played pedal steel; Gary Campbell (Stardust Cowboys) played acoustic guitar and vocals; Earle Ford and Phil Kember (Earles Of Newtown) rounded out the group on horns.



House Band came up next. Seems like there is never enough time for these guys so they played an extra half hour for us. What a treat. Jim Baughman on lead guitar and vocals;

Ralph Chase on piano and vocals; Gary Blodgett on guitar and vocals; Steve Clark on bass and vocals; Jesse Personeni on steel guitar; Bill Cornett on drums and vocals; Clete Berg (27 Outlaws) Arron Smith (Buck Ford Band) also played drums. Bob Woods joined us for a few songs, now that was fun! The band had some great singers join in. Kenny

Continued on page 11

ZACK SAPUNOR

Inducted October 3, 2021

Born May 2, 1980



Zack was born May 2, 1980 in Seattle, Washington

Hailing from Sacramento, California Zack Sapunor plays upright bass in the western swing tradition.

His music has taken him on tours of Europe and America from the continental U.S. to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil including two years in Texas touring and recording with Wayne "The Train" Hancock as well as a residency at San Antonio's Riverwalk with the Jim Cul-lum Jazz Band.

Back on the west coast Sapunor is a founding member of western swing bands the Sweet & Low Melody Co. and the Sactown Playboys as well as numerous other jazz and roots ensembles, both as sideman and bandleader/vocalist.

A full-time professional, Zack is dedicating his life to playing bass in rhythm sections large and small while also becoming one of the world's foremost soloists in the upright bass "slap" style.

He is immensely proud to be a part of Sacramento's western swing tradition and considers it an honor and a duty to spread the gospel of perhaps the world's most underrated musical form.

Zack Sapunor

Since this Biography was submitted Zack has been a very busy boy. He became a full time member of the famous band Hot Club of Cowtown"



Hot Club of Cowtown History:

The band's name comes from two sources: "Hot Club" from the hot jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli's Quintette du Hot Club de France, and "Cowtown" from the western influence of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys and other early Western swing combos, as well as

Continued on page 4

Zack Sapunor Continued from page 3

the band's love of fiddle tunes, hoe-downs, and songs of the American west.

Whit Smith (from Cape Cod, Massachusetts) and Elana James (from Prairie Village, Kansas) met through an ad in the classified music section of *The Village Voice* in 1994. They played together in New York City before moving to San Diego in 1997, where they spent a year playing for tips and building up their repertoire. In 1998 they moved to Austin, Texas and two years later added Jake Erwin (from Tulsa, Oklahoma) on bass.



The band split briefly in 2005, though they reunited for occasional shows in 2005–07, including the Fuji Rock Festival^[3] and a tour of Australia as Elana James & The Hot Club of Cowtown, in 2007. Whit Smith per-

formed as Whit Smith's Hot Jazz Caravan, based in Austin, Texas. Elana toured with Bob Dylan in 2005 and began performing with her own trio later in 2005. Smith and James resumed playing together full-time in 2006 and by early 2008 the Hot Club of Cowtown had officially re-formed.

In the summer of 2020, Jake Erwin retired from the band and was replaced by Zack Sapunor of Sacramento, California.

Zack has also played many, many dances at the Western Swing Society.

Ronnie Elkan



PICTURES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT

Pictures are now available on our website: <http://westernswingociety.net/>. OR on [Google Photos](#)

Tips:

- From PDF newsletter, click on link below these instructions to enter that photo album.
- Use the three dots at top right to download entire album or a selected photo
- To see all albums, click top left on [Google Photos](#)
- Once back at the home page, click on Albums
- To find all photos of a particular person, click then click [See all people](#) at the bottom of the dropdown list. Scroll and click on a person. You will see all photos of that person. Then you can download and print what you like.



PHOTO LINKS

Monthly Dance Photos

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/d6FaZMqBe44bRt8j8>

FOOD AVAILABLE

American Legion Post #709 , Mather and Rancho Cordova, are all volunteer veterans that prepare meals and cook for us at all our Sunday dances. Next Sundays Dance we will have an expanded menu with some new items on the menu. Come early for lunch to support these volunteers and stay to dance.

FYI, the guy out back cooking your hamburgers and hotdogs served 27 months in Iraq in the infantry and is a clinical psychologist who serves veterans. BIG THANK YOU!

A hot meal, reasonably priced, provided by our American Legion Post #9! Thank you for your service!

All credit card transactions will have a \$.50 surcharge added.





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.

TIME TO SWING

*Thank you to Mary Harris, and anyone else who helped me get some pictures
for our newsletter.*

LET'S VISIT AT WESTERN SWING**Make sure to see the instructions on how to access them online, page 5**

*Thank you to Mary Harris, and anyone else who helped me get some pictures
for our newsletter.*

THANKS FOR ALL THE MUSIC, HOUSE BAND!



WESTERN SWING MUSIC SOCIETY of the SOUTHWEST

Congratulations to all these deserving musicians,
WELL DONE!



Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest

2022 Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Lawton, Oklahoma
July 14, 15, 16

Congratulations 2022 Inductees!

Mark Abbott	(posthumous)
Doug Boggs	Spring, TX
Jim Garling	Guthrie, OK
Matlock Rice	Sealy, TX
Bob Tuttle	Springfield, MO
Baxter Vaughan	Lubbock, TX
David Waters	Victoria, TX

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF WESTERN SWING MUSIC, HERE IS WHERE TO GO!

<https://www.westernswing.com/Events.html>

WESTERN SWING MUSIC

Society of the Southwest Presents:

In Memory of
Bob Dolle

17th Annual Showcase and Dance

May 19, 20, & 21, 2022

WSMSS Musicians - from many States

LOCATION: VFW POST #3838
1049 N. Kingshighway

Cape Girardeau, MO

Cake Walks, Door Prizes, 50/50 Drawings



ALL ARE WELCOME

WSMSS Members	Non-Members
Free	\$5.00
\$5.00	\$10.00
\$5.00	\$10.00



Proceeds go Toward
Scholarships at River Campus
SEMO State University

Bands Rotate every
hour & a half



Big Jam Room
Available

Lodging Information:

Auburn Place Hotel & Suites (573) 651-4486 or
3265 William St. 0-55 & Rte K (800) 331-0445
\$75/night - Free Breakfast

Cape Camping & RV Park (800) 335-1178
Kingshighway (close to VFW)

* Mention Western Swing Event for discount



Sponsors:

Fred Dockins of C106 Radio - Cape Girardeau www.kwzk.com
Chamber of Commerce - Cape Girardeau
Convention of Visitors Bureau - Cape Girardeau
Shivelbines Music Store - Cape Girardeau

SOUND SYSTEM FURNISHED BY SHIVELBINE'S MUSIC STORE

For Information, contact
Barry Horton
(573) 683-0082

MUSIC ALERT:
You can see our soundman
perform every Wednesday
Night at the Valencia Club on
the indoor stage from 7:30-
10:30. You just never know
who he'll have with him on
stage.



WESTERN SWING SOCIETY BOARD MEETING APRIL 3, 2022

Meeting called to order by President Barnes at 10:35am.

Members present: Barnes, Elkan, Harris, McCarley, McCoy, Rietz, Swanson, Tilton, Weiss

Guest: Elaine Rietz

Approval of Minutes. March 6, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as submitted by an email vote of

6-0.

Moved Weiss, Second Rietz, To facilitate the printing of the monthly meeting minutes in the Newsletter of that same month; The Secretary shall distribute the meeting minutes via email to Board members within 7-10 days of said meeting; Board members shall review the minutes upon receipt; Return a vote by email within 2-3 days to Accept, Accept with corrections, Not Accept or Abstain. Approved 6-0.

April 3, 2022 meeting minutes approved as corrected by email vote. 5-0-3 No response.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Barnes submitted a letter of introduction along with a WSS cap and dance invitation to the new Mayor of Rancho Cordova. The next step is scheduling an appointment with him.

The Union representative informed the President that they are sound financially as they are currently manufacturing liquid medication rather than jet fuel. They are considering some repairs to the Hall such as lights and tiles. So far they still have made no commitment to share cost of stage curtains. Hopefully, the air conditioner will make it through another summer.

Barnes had distributed a meal survey at the February dance in an attempt to identify approximately how many of the attendees are buying food from the American Legion. Results were inconclusive.

Moved Weiss, Second Rietz, To eliminate the purchase of the two cakes effective the May dance. Approved 7-0.

Almost all of our clothing was sold in the sale at the March dance. It appears that the Society will not be able to offer the option of purchasing single items. Barnes will contact the new owner of Eddie Burhan's business in order to retrieve our logo.

Rob Shotwell called and informed the President that Bill Cornett will donate a drum set for on-stage use.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Moved Weiss, Second McCarley, To accept the March, 2022 Income/Expense report. Approved 7-0.

WEB MASTER REPORT.

As Web Master, Rietz has built the existing WSS web page. The current Newsletter is on the site. He would like to add more front page information as well as music. He is still behind in getting the Hall of Fame information on the site due to lack of time. If the Society can find a replacement for him, Rietz is willing to assist that person.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT.

McCoy reported that she has submitted the Society's grant proposal to the City of Rancho Cordova. It is a limited, open request of \$8,000. The City has received 90 proposals and approved selections will be made in September.

McCoy will now administer the Society's Facebook page. The Elkans will provide her with needed information.

NEW BUSINESS: None.**OLD BUSINESS.**

After a lengthy discussion: Moved Rietz, Second Weiss, to table a vote to reconsider radio advertising until next meeting. Approved 8-0.

Weiss distributed the initial draft of the By-Laws revision. The Board members are asked to review Articles I through IV of the document and be prepared to discuss them at the May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.

Moved Weiss, Second Rietz, To adjourn. Approved 8-0.

Doug Weiss, Secretary

JUST A GREAT TIME TO DO SOME VISITING**Raffle Winners**

*Thank you to Mary Harris, Mae McCoy and anyone else
who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.*

RIP JOHN TOWNER

September 8, 1925 - April 4, 2022



John with Buck Ford

John Towner will be missed by so many of us here at the Western Swing Society and friends in the music community.

He was dedicated to everything to do with western swing music and had a extensive collection of records,

CD's and tapes of all the swing bands, past and present. He had books and photos of all the greats like Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys. He shared his collection with the Western Swing Society many times over the years even though it was difficult for him to get around. His friend and care taker, Dena Mathis would give him rides to as many events as she could.

John lost his entire collection and home in the "Camp Fire" in 2018. Even with this loss he spent his remaining years rebuilding his collection online and in thrift stores.



He was laid to rest with the military honors that he deserved. We all will miss him.



Editor's Letter continued from page 3

Frye, Tommy Thomsen, Janice Allen, Janice Cole, Nancy Long and Mae McCoy.

It has been brought to my attention that parking has become a problem. The Machinist Hall has sectioned off some of the parking lot. They really have been good to us so we will weather this change. Probably gonna be a good idea to ride together if possible. I think we will be able to figure it out.

Come out and dance to Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars on Sunday May 1st. Just good luck to have Mae in May.



See Ya at the next dance, Ronnie (Editor)

RIP BOB FIFE

Passed April 7, 2022



Bob was at our Sunday dances as well as other local dances. He and his love always lit the place up with their smiles. He fought the good fight with cancer and a lot of us didn't even know. We all send our best to Claudia Ezzell and his family.

Claudia posted this on Facebook:

My sweetheart fought the good fight as long as he could but he passed this afternoon very peacefully. God bless him as he truly was a treasure to behold. I'm so glad we found each other and had 15 wonderful years together. I will miss my handsome hunk terribly but glad he's at peace finally and no longer suffering with cancer.



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS THOSE PICTURED AND NOT



2022 UPCOMING BANDS

May 1	Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars
June 5	Tony Arana & the Jamroom Band
July 3	Geoff Miller Band 3-5pm
August 7	Footlights
September 4	Shelley Elkan & Bite the Bullet
October 1&2	Hall of Fame
November	TBA
December 4	Linda Baughman and Friends

OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS

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

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

Gary Blodgett, Every Wednesday night at the Valencia Club on the indoor stage from 7:30-10:30. <https://www.facebook.com/gary.blodgett.142>

Grace Clark and Swingitude: www.graceaclarkmusic.com. 925-443-5217

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:

Every Tuesday, 1:15-3:45pm. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. \$6 cover at the door. <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 Machinist Hall in Rancho Cordova.



*We buy, sell, & trade new & used gear!
--Free appraisals--
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

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@westernswingssociety.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: \$7 for Members; \$10 for Non-Members
For information, browse to
www.westernswingssociety.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.