

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



**KEVIN WIMMER**



**DON MADDUX**

*(Go to Page 3)*

## Letter from The Editor



### Dec. 1st is our annual Toy Drive and Dance!!!

Bring an unwrapped toy for donation for a child in our community. These toy drives have been a huge success in the recent years thanks to you, our members and friends in our community.

Music by Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars and the Hall of Famers

Free dance lessons

Jam room

All day dancing and live music

Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars is at Western Swing Society.

Join Us for the annual @westernswingsocietyofficial Toy Drive & Dance! Let's make this holiday unforgettable! Come celebrate with us on Sunday, December 1st at the Western Swing Society in Rancho Cordova.

Together, let's spread joy, dance, and give back to kids in need!

Free Dance Lessons with David West! Perfect for all skill levels! (12pm-1pm)

Live Music: Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars (1pm-3pm) followed by the Hall of Famers (3pm-5pm)

Food & Drinks for Purchase – Bring your appetite!

Jam Room – Musicians, bring your instruments!

Large Dance Floor – Swing, two-step, waltz etc

Bring an unwrapped toy to donate and help brighten a child's holiday!

Tell your friends, bring the family, and let's fill the room with joy and good vibes. See you there!

#WesternSwingDance #TwoStepDance #SacramentoEvents #HolidayToyDrive #ChristmasDance #maemccoy #HonkyTonk #WesternSwing #GiveBackSacramento #LiveDanceMusic #CountryDance #SacramentoCommunity #countrymusic

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**SUNDAY, December 1, 2024**



**MAE McCoy & Her NEON STARS**

**1:00pm-3:00pm**

**Followed by the House band**

**"The Hall of Famers"**

**3:00pm-5:00pm**

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**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, Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345

Vice Pres, Meghan McCoy

Treasurer, Linda Swanson

Secretary, Sandra Robinson

Social Media, Sandra Robinson

Social Media Specialist, Meghan McCoy

**Other Directors:**

Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463

Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520

Jimmy Boehnke

Arron Smith

Ralph Chase

**Staff and Committee Chairpersons:**

Admissions Coord, Linda McCarley

Bar Manager,

Bartender,

Decorating Chair, Open

Equipment and Staging, Arron Smith

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Brad Barnett & Dave Rietz

Master of Ceremonies, Terry Crouson

Membership Director, Linda McCarley

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, Don deMars

Public Relations Administrator Mae

McCoy

Facebook Administrator: Sandra Robinson

Volunteer Coordinator: Sandra Robinson

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, Janet Jimenez

Sound Engineer, Arron Smith

Website Manager, Dave Rietz

*President's Letter continued from page 1*

What a great dance it was, thanks to Bob Woods Swing. Nothing makes this president happier then to see the dance floor full with folks that are enjoying western swing music. It takes me back to days that have passed but still live on here at our Society.

Bob Woods Swing is lead by Bob Woods on lead guitar and vocals. We heard a lot of standards as well as Bob and Gary Campbell's original songs. Gary Campbell, singer of the Stardust Cowboys, joined Bob on guitar and vocals. Also in the band was Olen Dillingham on fiddle, mandolin and vocals; Joe Ybarra on pedal steel guitar; Brett Cole on stand-up bass; and John Gardiner on drums. Thanks boys for volunteering your time and talent to us.

The jam room was a great draw as usual. It is so much fun to see all that talent in the back room. This month we even had a youngster, Joshua, come in with his fiddle.



I did notice him out on the dance floor most of the afternoon.

Big thanks to our sound man Arron Smith jr. for engineering and installing handrails on both sides of the stage. Arron means so much to our Society, running sound, palying drums and climbing ladders. He does it all for us. Thanks buddy.

Hope to see y'all at the dance this Sunday, Ronnie

**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 [ronnie.elkan@gmail.com](mailto: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. Are "Hall of Fame" hosts, Brad Barnett and Dave Rietz will be there to welcome you!



**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.



Free Dance Lessons with admission on Sunday December, 1, 2024!



**KEVIN WIMMER**

Inducted October 1, 2023



Growing up with Juilliard-educated professional classical musician parents, it wasn't a surprise that Kevin Wimmer grew up to be a musician. Having

started violin at age 4 under the tutelage of his mother Shirley Givens, in his teen years Kevin discovered fiddling and never looked back.

One of Kevin's early influences, leading to his exploration of Western Swing, was Tiny Moore. During a high school fling with the mandolin, he discovered Tiny's music, which led him to the Tiffany Transcriptions and the Billy Jack Wills band, which both featured Tiny and his swinging arrangements. Several years later, Kevin had the privilege of playing a gig with Tiny, and learning firsthand not only what a gracious and generous musician he was, but how he could out-swing every musician on stage.

While spending a summer in California during his college years, he met Mylos Sonka, who was in need of a fiddler to play a weekly gig with his band Lone Star at Paul's Saloon in San Francisco. Kevin was carless, so he would take BART and a bus to the gig. Afterward, Mylos would drive him back to the East Bay in his Karmann Ghia convertible. Mylos' enthusiasm and deep knowledge of Western Swing music really lit the fire for Kevin's life-long love of Western Swing.

Inspired by his summer as Mylos' fiddler, he went back to college in Connecticut and formed his own Western Swing band, the inappropriately named "Midnight Cowtippers," with Stacy Philips on dobro.

Returning to California in 1985, his next big break came when fellow fiddle player, friend, and current inductee Tony Marcus asked Kevin to sub for him with the group he co-founded with Don Burnham, Lost Weekend. Lost Weekend started as a five piece band that only played Monday nights, but grew to a full

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**K.C. "DON" MADDOX**

Born December 7, 1922 Died October 10, 2005

Inducted October 9, 2005



K.C. "Don" Maddox was born on "Pearl Harbor Day" December 7, 1922, in Boaz, Alabama. Don Maddox is the last surviving member of The Maddox Brothers and Rose. You can keep up with him on his [Facebook](#) site.

*The following excerpt taken from a 2012 Facebook Event, Hosted by [Mandy Valencia](#)*

*and [Kyle Coroneos](#)*

Legendary musician and performer K.C. "Don Juan" Maddox, last surviving member of the influential family band Maddox Brothers & Rose, will be honored for his 90th birthday at the "Don Maddox 90th Birthday Celebration" to take place at the Ashland Community Center in Ashland, December 8, 2012, from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Don Maddox's 90th Birthday Celebration will feature performances by the Oregon Old Time Fiddlers, Sage Meadows and her band High Country, Don Maddox himself, and the legendary Ashland bluegrass group Siskiyou Summit, who was the backing band for Don's sister, Rose Maddox, for many years. Rose, who passed away in 1998, is buried in Ashland, as are all the members of Maddox Brothers & Rose.

*The Maddox Brothers and Rose (Artist Biography by Dan Cooper)*

The Maddox Brothers (Cliff, Cal, Fred, Don, and "friendly Henry, the working girl's friend") and their sister Rose called themselves "America's Most Colorful Hillbilly Band." They weren't kidding. It wasn't just a matter of hillbilly couture -- though with their matching Turk suits and spangles the family had style in spades. But colorful described their sound, as well. On the air in Modesto, CA, by 1937, the group made their first records, for the 4-Star label, in 1946. From 1951 till 1956, they recorded for Columbia. At that point, the family act broke up, though Rose maintained a successful solo career for many years after. But throughout the 1940s and '50s, the Maddox Brothers and Sister Rose tore down the honky tonks from the Pacific Northwest to the Gulf Coast with slap-bass boogie and an iconoclastic attitude towards the stiffer mores of conventional coun

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NEWS FROM MAE McCOY our VP



2025 UPCOMING BANDS

December 1	Mae McCoy & her Neon Stars
January 5	Rob Shotwell & Let the Horses Run
February 2	Bob Woods Swing
March 2	Geoffrey Miller
September 7	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station

FOOD AVAILABLE

American Legion, Mather and Rancho Cordova, are all volunteer veterans that prepare meals and cook for us at all our Sunday dances. Come early for lunch to support these volunteers and stay to dance.

A hot meal, reasonably priced, provided by our American Legion

Thank you for your service!

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



PICTURES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT

Pictures are now available on our website: <http://westernswingsociety.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 in the left column
- 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 March Dance

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/M8Ntw5kS7NABTbAV8>

Western Swing Society Café Menu

Serving 12-3:15

Hamburger with chips or potato salad \$8.00

Cheeseburger with chips or potato salad \$8.50

Pulled Pork with coleslaw \$9.00

Cobb Salad \$10.00

Hot Dog with chips or potato salad \$4.00

Beyond Burger \$10.00

Chips \$ .50

Thank you for supporting





*Kevin Wimmer continued from page 3*

headlining 13-piece Western Swing band with twin fiddles, horn section, and back up singers. With this group, Kevin was not only part of a top notch collection of fiddlers (fellow inductees Tony Marcus and Paul Shelasky, along with Paul Anastasio) but was able to play extensively with both Bobby Black and Vance Terry, two of the best steel players in Western Swing. The experience gained from playing alongside these exceptional musicians (and other band members) cannot be understated.

Kevin has also spent years studying and performing the Cajun and Creole music of South Louisiana, learning and playing with Dewey Balfa, Dennis McGee, Canray Fontenot, Carlton Frank, and more, touring and performing with Danny Poullard & the California Cajun Orchestra, Balfa Toujours, and Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, and garnering a Grammy nomination with the band Racines. He was able to synthesize his love for Western Swing and Cajun music -- long-time musical kissin' cousins -- when he played and toured the world with the Louisiana based Cajun/Western Swing band The Red Stick Ramblers.

Kevin loves the early Western Swing fiddlers like J.R. Chatwell, Cliff Bruner, and Harry Choates, as well as later fiddlers like Keith Coleman and Johnny Gimble. Johnny Gimble is a particular influence; Kevin was lucky enough to play some gigs with him, on both upright bass and second fiddle.

Kevin's violin jazz heroes are Stuff Smith, Svend Asmussen, and Claude Williams. And like his idols before him who could swing like horn players on string instruments, he draws inspiration from non-fiddle swing legends like Count Basie and particularly the inventive soloing of Lester Young.

Kevin continues to teach string players how to swing, recently teaching and arranging fiddle and guitar sections in three part harmony at the Ashokan Western & Swing Week, alongside such great musicians as Randy Elmore, Jay Ungar, and Dick Gimble.

Kevin is honored to be recognized by the Western Swing Society, and to be included with the amazing group of current and past inductees.

**RAFFLE WINNERS (Photo's By Don deMars)**



## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Come in early and leave late, here is just three guys that do it all on stage. Ralph Chase, plays piano and sings in the Hall of Fame band 3pm to 5pm and does everything from mop the floor to set up signs. Gary Rhoda, has set up our sound system with Arron Smith and comes in to help run sound whenever we ask him to. Arron Smith, plays drums with whoever needs him and runs sound. He's always there to install handrails or turn a wrench for WSS. This month we added a sub-whoffer to our sound system and I can't thank these guys enough.

I'm also so thankful to all our volunteers. I'm happy to announce that Linda Bentley Swanson is back in town and is there for WSS to do our books



## WSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 12, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Ronnie Elkan at 6p,m via Zoom

Members Present: President Ronnie Elkan, Vice President Mae McCoy, Secretary Sandy Robinson, David Rietz, Ralph Chase, Arron Smith. Guest: Nick Dennis

**Presidents Report:** Our December Dance includes a successful Christmas Toy Drive. It was moved by David Rietz and seconded by Aaron Smith that this year we distribute the toys to Rancho Cordova and to also include other outside areas. Elkans once again praised the popularity and well-management of the Jam Room. The entire Board praised and thanked Arron Smith for the incredible "sound system" we now enjoy from our Main Stage. New sub-woofers were installed for our November dance and the sound was described as "over-the-top" – not only an improvement for the bands but vocalists, as well. Arron also installed removable handrails for accessing the Main Stage from both sides . These handrails make accessing the Main Stage easier and safer for our talented musicians and vocalists.

**Treasurer's Report:** The October Treasurer's Report was approved via a previous email. We are so grateful to have the dedication of Linda Swanson as our Treasurer. Linda spent a great deal of the summer on vacation with her family – and we thank our Board Member Ralph Chase for assuming some of her duties during her absence.

**Newsletter:** Ronnie Elkan will have the November Newsletter out a little early to give notice and attention to our Christmas Toy Drive. Ronnie Elkan also emphasized how wonderful it is to have the professional expertise of Alicia Fox, Fox West Photography, at our Dances and contributing such incredible pictures of our members and bands to be shared in our Newsletter and on our Facebook posts. Dave Rietz volunteered to do some proof reading and editing for the Newsletter.

**Publicity Director:** Vice President Mae McCoy continues to show her graphic talent in our Facebook and Instagram posts. Mae says there are many ideas to be explored in 2025 – including marketing our Western Swing as a Dance Club – with emphasis on our enthusiastic and talented dancers.

**Adjournment:** Moved Ralph Chase, Second Sandy Robinson Approved 6-0  
Sandy Robinson, Secretary



*Don Maddox Continued from page 3*



try. In other words, they rocked the house.

It all started in 1933, when the Maddox family -- Charlie and Lula, and five of their seven children -- hitchhiked and rode the rails from Boaz, AL, to California, where they worked in the migrant labor camps of the

San Joaquin Valley. Fred quickly tired of picking fruit and wrangled a radio spot on KTRB Modesto for his intensely musical family (which featured 11-year-old Rose on decidedly raw lead vocals). In addition to playing on KTRB, the group performed at local barns and festivals, and in 1939, they were named the best band at the California State Fair. Early the following year, they began playing at KFBK in Sacramento, and their show was syndicated throughout the West Coast.

Though the future was bright for the Maddox Brothers and Rose, their career was interrupted by the advent of World War II in the early '40s. Fred, Cal, and Don were all drafted into the military (Cliff was too ill and Henry was too young to serve), leaving the remaining members to play with different bands during the course of the war. Rose sang with Arky Stark and Dave Stogner; she also was turned away from the Texas Playboys. Meanwhile, Cliff headed his own band, the Rhythm Ramblers. Following the war, the Maddox Brothers and Rose re-formed, settling at KGDM in Stockton, CA. Over the next decade, their fan base steadily grew, as their blend of music and comedy played well not only in concert, but on the radio as well. During the '40s and early '50s, they cut a number of records for 4-Star.

In 1951, the Maddoxes switched labels and signed with Columbia Records. Over the next six years, they recorded over 40 singles for the label. During the '50s, the group appeared on both the Louisiana Hayride and the Grand Ole Opry, often performing with an augmented lineup that featured steel guitarist Bud Duncan and either Roy Nichols, Jimmy Winkle, or Gene Breeden on lead guitar. At the end of their stint with Columbia, Rose began to pursue a solo career, leading toward the band's breakup in the summer of 1956. Rose began a solo career with the assistance of Cal, while the remaining members operated as a new band. Despite the breakup,

*Continued next column*

the Maddox Brothers and Rose recorded a final session for Columbia in the summer of 1957.

Following the disbandment of the Maddox Brothers, Rose had a successful solo career on Capitol Records, while the band comprised of the remaining members quickly fell apart. Fred opened a nightclub, the Fred Maddox Playhouse, which was quite successful during the late '50s and early '60s. Henry went on to accompany Rose on her recordings for Capitol. Over the course of the '70s and '80s, all of the members of the Maddox Brothers -- with the notable exception of Rose, who continued to perform into the late '80s -- quietly retired from music.

## TO ALL THE MUSICIANS, THANK YOU (Photo's By Don deMars)



## DOUG MCGINNIS

Doug McGinnis: Unsung Cowboy Legend

By Meghan “Mae” McCoy



James Douglas McGinnis, better known as “Doug,” was a dynamic force in California’s country music and Western Swing scene. A true jack-of-all-trades, Doug seamlessly balanced life as a musician, disc jockey, stuntman, and club owner, leaving an indelible mark on the culture of the West. Born on December 24, 1922, in Monroe, North Carolina, he eventually made his way to Placerville, California, where his legacy in music and film still resonates.

Before his career in entertainment, Doug served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, fighting courageously in the Normandy Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge. He earned a Purple Heart for injuries sustained from shrapnel—proof of his grit and determination long before he graced a stage or a screen.

I first heard about Doug McGinnis from his daughter, Kris McGinnis Thayer, whom I met at one of our Sunday dances. She shared incredible stories about her dad’s life and his time playing with legends like Wynn Stewart—one of my personal favorites and a major influence on California country music. Those stories piqued my interest and I just had to learn more.

In Hollywood, Doug began as the stuntman for Russell “Lucky” Hayden, the star of *Hopalong Cassidy*. His skills eventually landed him roles in films with legends like Roy Rogers, Jackie Coogan, and Ronald Reagan. Whether performing stunts in *Cowboy G-Men* or acting in films like *Women Major* and *Mysterious Decoy*, Doug brought an authenticity that only a real cowboy could deliver. He even worked on Marty Robbins’s *30 Minutes at Gunsight Pass* with Hayden and Roy Lanham.

Doug’s passion for music was just as impactful. He led his own band, The Sage Dusters, and played the rhythm guitar and sometimes drums with legends like the Sons of the Pioneers, Bob Wills, Roy Clark, Jimmy Bryant, and Speedy West. In North Hollywood, Doug owned the Mule Kick, a nightclub that later became the legendary Palomino Club. The Mule Kick became a hotspot for acts like Spade Cooley’s band and Cliffie Stone, helping to solidify North Hollywood as a center for California’s country and Western Swing music scene. Not content with just performing, Doug founded Mulekick Records, giving Western Swing musicians a platform to thrive. A deep dive into YouTube will uncover his recordings, where his powerful, melodic voice still captivates listeners.

Doug loved the Western Swing Society of Sacramento, where he was a proud member and Hall of Fame inductee in 1989. The Society wasn’t just an organization to Doug—it was a community where he shared his passion with like-minded fans and musicians. His daughter Kris recalls how he performed “Cool Water” at Society events with a voice that could silence a room. “I’ve never heard anyone sing as beautifully as my dad,” she says. “He had such a melodic voice. I know I won’t hear anyone sing that well again.”

Doug’s personal life reflected the cowboy values he celebrated. He was a devoted father to Kris and his late son, Doug Jr., leaving behind a legacy of family, tradition, and grit.

Doug McGinnis may not have been a household name, but his fingerprints are all over California’s Western Swing and country music history. A musician’s musician, a stuntman’s stuntman, and a proud Californian who embodied the spirit of the West, Doug lived the cowboy life he so authentically portrayed—another remarkable chapter in the book of the Western Swing Society.





TIME TO SWING (Photo's by Don deMars) download more photos page 4



**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

**Grace Clark and Swingitude:** [www.graceAclarkmusic.com](http://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/>

**The Lincoln Highway Trio:** Every Tuesday, 1:15-3:45pm. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. \$8 cover at the door. <https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhighwaybandca/>

**Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars**  
Contact: [www.maemccoymusic.com](http://www.maemccoymusic.com)  
<https://youtube.com/@maemccoyandherneonstars>

**Micheal Ray Strauch & The Fortunate Few**  
Contact Facebook for dates and places  
**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](http://www.wsmss.com).

**Cliff Huey 27 Outlaws Band @**  
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=cliff%20huey%202027%20outlaws>

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>

**Board Meeting Invitation**

You can attend the Society's monthly Board meetings; Please contact any board member if you would like to attend on Google Meet or if you have a suggestion.

**FREE DANCE LESSONS**

**With Admission @ 12:00 pm**

Swingers of the Month!



**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](mailto: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: \$7 for Members; \$10 for Non-Members  
For information, browse to [www.westernswingsociety.net](http://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.