

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



CARL BOWER



CLIFF BRUNER

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Letter from The Editor

Hi There to all my Western Swing Society friends. Wow what a great turn out we had. Our "regulars" are just so welcoming to all the new faces coming in to enjoy the dance. I feel so great when I see that because it was that same welcoming that kept us coming back. Another great thing we have happening is all the hard work Mae McCoy and the Board are doing. Mae has been busy putting WSS on the "Social Media" map. This is going to be really good for WSS and the plans that we have to get young kids involved in our music and dance. Yes, we keep having record breaking Sunday dances and our regular folks make it happen also.

Thank you everyone that welcomed me with a hug and all the condolences that poured out to me for the loss of Shelley. I knew that it wouldn't be easy for me or the WSS family, but you all made it so warm and welcoming. Thank You!!!!

When Rob Shotwell couldn't perform due to shoulder surgery Rhonda Rogers and Edgewood Station

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SUNDAY, February 4, 2023



CASSIC COUNTRY BOYS

1:00pm-3:00pm

Followed by the House band

"The Hall of Famers"

3:00pm-5:00pm

SUNDAY DANCE February 4, 2024

Western Swing Society Presents

SUNDAY DANCE
 Feb 4th, 2024
 12pm-5pm



CLASSIC COUNTRY BOYS



FREE DANCE LESSON
 David and Alicia Fox West

Schedule
 12-1pm - Dance Lesson
 1-3pm - Classic Country Boys
 3-5pm Hall of Famers

Entry: \$7 Members

FOOD/DRINK FOR PURCHASE* VENDOR BOOTH
 JAM ROOM * RAFFLE* HUGE DANCE FLOOR

2749 Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova, CA

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NEW!!! FREE DANCE LESSONS
With Admission @ 12:00 pm

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

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, Cyndi Lee

Bartender, Cyndi Lee

Decorating Chair, Open

Equipment and Staging, Arron Smith

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Tony Arana

Master of Ceremonies, Terry Crouson

Membership Director, Linda McCarley

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, Mary Harris

Public Relations Administrator Mae

McCoy

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, Janet Jimenez

Sound Engineer, Open

Website Manager, Dave Rietz

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I didn't hesitate to step in and do a great job for all our folks. We are so fortunate to have all the talented



volunteers that perform at our dances and the Jamroom.

Rhonda and band kept the dance floor hopping for 2 hours. She played a blend of country standards and mixed in some new country. The dancers were entertained for sure. Rhonda lead the band with her vocals; Charlie Nickrenz on drums and vocals; Ron Cook, guitar and vocals; Steve French, pedal steel guitar; Paul Whitney bass guitar. We hope to have them back soon, Thank You.

The "Hall of Famers" never disappoint the dancers. I know I totally enjoyed them as a listener. Jimmy Baughman lead the band on guitar and vocals; Steve French stayed on stage to play pedal steel guitar and sing; Ralph Chase, a board member, played piano, sang and made sure there was toilet paper in the bathrooms; Bill Cornett played drums and sang; Arron Smith, a board member played drums and ran sound for everyone on the stage; Steve Clark played bass guitar and sang. Wow, what a great group and



they brought up a ton of talent to sing. Peggy van Den Broeck, Janice Allen, Rex Barnes, Mae McCoy,

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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 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!



Free Dance Lessons with admission on Sunday February 4, 2024!



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.

CARL BOWER

Inducted October 1, 2023



Carl J. Bowers has been performing on both bass and trombone for a number of events at Western Swing Society since around 2007, sitting in with some of the Hall of Famers like Jimmy and Vernon Baughman,

Biff Adams, Ralph Chase, Janice Allen Terry and more. Carl comes from a musical family. His father played jazz clarinet and classical piano and his mother was a music educator. Piano lessons began at a very early age and continued through his college education. But his love of music began to develop at a very early age, playing the ukulele and acoustic guitar, which is still his instrument of inspiration.

A product of the Omaha Public School system, his first televised appearance was a solo recorder performance at the age of six. By the age of 10 he was an accomplished flutist and began studying jazz. And though he had his sights set on learning the alto saxophone, it was more than he could afford at the time and so he used a trombone purchased by his mother. He moved from the woodwind to the brass section. He studied under the direction of Melvin Frame and by the age of 16, Carl was a member of the local musicians union and performing professionally.

It was a performance accompanying the great David Baker that confirmed his place in the section as a trombonist. Working in pit orchestras for musicals, the circus and big bands continued to strengthen his reading skills, which opened other doors and before long, he was doubling on electric bass and trombone. While attending Minot State University – North Dakota he “got the call” to play bass for several big name artists and when he moved to CA in 1988, his reputation continued to flourish as a competent bassist. It was not until the Volker Strifler Band formed a horn section that anyone in CA even knew of his ability on trombone.

Carl is an owner of a sales agency in Northern CA and while the days are longer than ever, his nights are still filled with music, now as the bassist for the Volker Strifler Band and the trombonist for Soul Fuse.

Carl still appears at the Western Swing Society with Hall of Famers like Janice Allen, Jimmy Baughman and Ralph Chase whenever possible.

CLIFF BRUNER

Born April 25, 1915 Died August 25, 2000

Inducted October 1, 1995

Cliff Bruner, born April 25, 1915 in Texas City, Texas, learned fiddle by age 4 and at 14 was making his own way hopping freight trains toward the next set of bright lights with his fiddle wrapped in a flour sack.

While working in a medicine show, Cliff caught the attention of Milton Brown who hired him in 1935. After Brown’s death in 1936, Cliff moved to Houston where he formed “The Texas Wanderers” and hired his old friend Leo Raley to play electric mandola to give his group an identifiable sound and the boisterous piano player Moon Mullican who also sang. His vocalist and rhythm guitarist was Dickie McBride who later married Bob Wills’ vocalist Barbara Lee Owens. Cliff had everybody in the band sing on his records except the bass players. When he heard his own voice singing “one sweet letter from you” for the first time in 45 years, he didn’t recognize himself.

Although Houston was a musical success, politics made business impossible and the band relocated about 75 miles east in Beaumont where they made radio station KFDM a base for their appearances in East Texas and Louisiana. They could also be heard on KWKH in Shreveport.

If you ever heard one of the old and now classic blue label Decca records from the mid 30s to mid 40s, chances are the fiddle player was none other than Cliff Bruner. Cliff cut his last Decca session in New York in 1944 and soon moved to the newly formed Mercury label. By this time he had played speakeasies in Chicago, worked for W. Lee O’Daniel and Jimmy Davis, became a born-again Christian, operated his own nightclub and worked all over the state of Texas.

After losing his wife to tuberculosis and the drowning of his close friend Buddy Dukon, Cliff retired from full-time music in 1950. Since that time he has been an insurance salesman, part-time bandleader, a recording artist on several Western swing revival projects, and a performer with Johnny Gimble on Western swing reunion shows.

Cliff Bruner, still performing at the age of 80, is the last living member of Milton Brown’s “Musical Brownies.” He will be inducted into the Western swing society Hall of Fame during this year’s Hall of Fame festival.

NEW MERCHANDISE AT WSS

Please welcome our new attraction at WSS. I cant't wait to see what's NEW. Some of her jewelry will be in our monthly raffle!



**“Eleanor Keeps It Poppin’!”
by Mae McCoy (Vice President)**

At our monthly dances, a lot of attention is paid to the wildly talented pickers singers and dancers that breeze through these doors. But it should be no surprise to you, dear reader, that we also have a force of outstanding volunteers that helps us become the success that we are today. Meet our popcorn lady... Eleanor Ford.

At our dancehall, where music and community converge, there exists an incredibly soft-spoken volunteer named Eleanor. Her dedication to serving up the perfect popcorn and her contributions to the community go way beyond the dance floor!



Eleanor's story is woven from the fabric of the Midwest. Raised in both Illinois and Minnesota, she brings the values of community and hard work to every role she undertakes. The strong sense of community ingrained in her down home upbringing has become the guiding force behind her commitment to volunteerism and service to her community.

She, along with her late husband Dennis, have been an integral part of the Western Swing Society. Dennis not only created the stage signs for our bands, but he was also our photographer. Together, they raised two children, Gail and Jim. The Western Swing community became a second family for Eleanor, and even after the passing of her beloved hus

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**Western Swing Society
Café Menu**

Serving All 3 Days of HOF

- 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**
- Chili Dog with chips or potato salad \$5.00**
- BLT on Sourdough with chips or potato salad \$7.00**
- Chips \$.50**

Thank you for supporting



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



2024 UPCOMING BANDS

February 4	Classic Country Boys
March 3	The Lincoln Highway (With Guest, Larry DeLeon)
April 7	The Familiar Strangers
May 5	Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars
June 2	Bite the Bullet
July 7	TBD
August 4	Janice Allen & All The Queen Men
December 1	Mae McCoy & her Neon Stars

WSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 16, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Ronnie Elkan at 6pm via Zoom.

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

Approval of December 14, 2023 Minutes via email

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT:

President Ronnie Elkan expressed his gratitude to our Board and all our Volunteers for such a successful December Dance – and also his gratitude for all the support and condolences during Shelley's illness and his great loss. Shelley Elkan was such a tremendous part of our Western Swing Society. Elkan also acknowledged how “Hot” our Jam Room was with such great participation and the sound system was working well. Our Dance Lesson prior to the dance is getting great support and attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Board acknowledged the outstanding job by our Treasurer, Linda Swanson, all year long. The Year End Financial Report was approved via email.

WEBSITE:

Work and research continues as we transition and upgrade our Website. We appreciate Dave Rietz who has done an amazing job for the Western Swing Society. We are looking into WIX which should make our Website more user friendly and allow us more layman accessibility to keep it current.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:

Vice President Mae McCoy reported our Western Swing Society Facebook is now linked to our Instagram account . Mae McCoy also reported we are also posting our events on the Rancho Cordova Community Council Page. Mae McCoy also proposed she is in touch with a vendor to sell custom Western Jewelry at our February Valentine's Dance. After discussion a majority vote was approved via email.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved Arron Smith, Second Ralph Chase, Approved 8-0
Sandy Robinson, Secretary

Editor's Letter continued from page 2

Tom and Maxine Chan and Nancy Long. Thanks to everyone for being so generous and making our Sunday dances a huge success

Big thanks to Brad Barnett, Dave Rietz and Chuck Webb for keeping the Jamroom Band going. We all realize how important the Jam is for many of our folks. It also gives folks a chance to hone their skills and form a band at some point. Thanks to all that participate



DANCE LESSON REPORT

Dance lessons continue to be a huge success. Big thanks to our VP, Mae McCoy for making these dance lessons happen. There is always something to learn for everyone. This photo doesn't do the lessons justice, believe me folks are having fun with it. This month is still kinda “up in the air” as far as lessons go. We'll do something but our instructor somehow broke his foot, OUCH! Not sure what we'll do?



Editor's Letter continued from page 2
band, she continues to drive from Modesto to join us every first Sunday of the month to serve our members and guests.



Eleanor's dedication to service is not confined to our dances. With a robust career at a finance company and AAA, she brings a wealth of experience to her volunteer work. Currently residing in Modesto, Eleanor has not only dedicated her time to Western Swing events but has been volunteering at Doctor's Medical Center, a task she has done for over a whopping 15 years!

At Doctor's Med Center, she shares her time at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), cuddling babies, providing comfort, and assisting in the laboratory. Her commitment to the well-being of the community echoes through her diverse volunteer roles.

Eleanor's daughter, Gail, shares insights into her mother's unwavering commitment. Gail reveals that Eleanor's dedication to the Western Swing Society goes so far that she is willing to miss out on family holidays to ensure she can be at our dancehall, contributing to the community she holds dear.

Our dear member and friend, Eleanor Ford, stands as a testament to the unsung heroes who contribute to the unique blend of music, dance, and community that defines our Western Swing events. Through her Midwest roots and unwavering dedication, she ensures that the spirit of camaraderie continues to thrive, leaving an indelible mark on our organization and the communities she serves. We thank the Fords for continuing to being part of our Western Swing Family.

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 January Dance
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/7Gtozh1eNRweM9uw6>



SWINGIN' (Photo's By Don deMars)



DANCING IT UP!!! (Photo's By Don deMars)



TIME TO SWING (Photo's By Don deMars) See all Don's Photos Page 6



THANKS FOR THE MUSIC (Photo's By Don deMars) See all Don's Photos Page 6



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. 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
<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.

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.

NEW!!! FREE DANCE LESSONS

With Admission @ 12:00 pm



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: \$7 for Members; \$10 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.