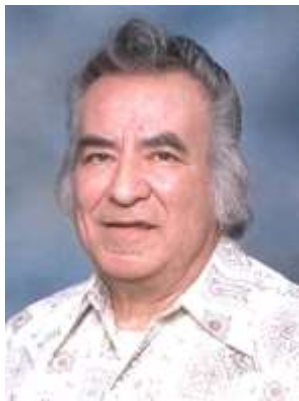


## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



**JOE BENNETT**



**TONY ARANA**

*(Go to Page 3)*

**SUNDAY, January 5, 2025**



### LET THE HORSES RUN

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

**Followed by the House band**

**"The Hall of Famers"**

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

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### HAPPY NEW YEAR



## Letter from The Editor



Hey Everyone, sure hope everyone that missed the last dance because they were sick are all well by now. We had a great dance with Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars. Mae is just a great entertainer and singer and is our Vice President here at Western Swing Society. As she has done in previous years she organized our annual "Toy Drive". What an in-



credible success it was. I looked over at the front wall and saw all those wonderful toys that our generous members brought in and just felt so good.



Thank you everyone for being so generous. When I took the toys over to the Rancho Cordova Police Dept. they couldn't say thank you enough. What great work they do over there to make sure all the toys are sorted out and go

to the right kids.

Mae sings and plays rhythm guitar. Other members are Brad Barnett piano and vocal; Chuck Webb bass; Ronnie Elkan fiddle; Arron Smith drums and vocals; Steve French pedal steel guitar and vocal. She had Peggy van den Broeck and Rex Barnes come up to sing. I sure hope we can get this group back soon.

Last newsletter I forgot to mention that Brad Barnett played piano and sang with Bob Woods Swing. He does a great job playing with any band and can be seen playing and hosting the Jamroom Band at all of

*Continued on page 2*

**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*  
our dances.

Our Hall of Famers” came up after the raffle to play for the dancers. Hall of Famers are Jimmy Baughman guitar and vocals; Brad Barnett piano and vocal; Steve Clark bass and vocals; Ronnie Elkan fiddle; Bill Cornett and Arron Smith drums and vocals; Steve French pedal steel guitar and vocal. Guest singers were Janice Allen, Rhonda Rogers, Nancy Long and Linda Baughman.



This month Rob Shotwell is going to bring in a band that gets it's name from the CD recording that Rob is about to release. The name of the band and album is “Let The Horses Run”. Come on out and enjoy the dancing.

I would like to mention that gal at the front desk. She is one of those volunteers I talk about each month that makes our dance work. Thank you Linda McCarly.

See Ya at the next dance, 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 January 5,  
2025  
Best kept secret in  
town.



**JOE BENNETT**

Inducted October 6, 2024  
Born March 6, 1952



Born March 6, 1952, in Cheyenne, Wyoming

Bio: Growing up as a young boy in Cheyenne, Wyoming, there was always music in our house. Neither parent played an instrument, but my Mom always had the radio on. She liked all kinds

of music, but her favorite was the local Western Swing and Country music station. One of her favorite songs was “Room Full of Roses” by Eddy Howard, later covered by Mickey Gilley. It was my honor to learn and perform this song many times in her memory.

During my school years, I tried to learn the clarinet, but it didn’t take. I also tried stringed instruments and keyboards, but that didn’t work either. Finally, in 1967. I tried my hand at drums and found they came easily to me.

During this time, I secured an announcer/DJ position with the local Western Swing/Country music radio station. I had two friends who worked in local radio that encouraged my interest. I studied hard, took the tests, and at 15, became one of the youngest Federally licensed radio operators in the country. I made friends with another employee, Steve Brooks, who had his own band.

I practiced the drums as often as I could and developed some experience, enough to be hired as a drummer by a local band, the Corvals. The bass player in that band and I meshed well, and we left to start our own group called Nova, playing many places in Southeast Wyoming and Northern Colorado. During this time, I expanded my experience by subbing with groups led by local musicians George Kent, Eddie Hawkins, Ralph Young and Steve Brooks.

Steve had gone to Nashville to record music and was told he needed to tour to support that. His other band members had no interest in touring, so he approached me. He said he liked my technique and



*Continued on page 5*

**TONY ARANA**

Born 1938  
Inducted October 1, 2006



Western Swing veteran, Tony Arana was born in Los Angeles in 1938 and began drumming in earnest after leaving the United States Navy in 1960. Learning along with his band mates in The Green Valley Boys, Tony’s talents were honed and his love of Country and Western music grew under the care and guidance of Al Workman and others. After seeing Leon McAuliffe and his eight-piece Western Swing Band in Seattle one night, Tony says, “I knew that was the type of music I wanted to play and I played it every chance I got.”

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

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

Tony is currently a resident of Reno, Nevada. He is a charter member of the Seattle Western Swing Music Society (now NWWSMS), and was elected Vice President in 1986. He was inducted into that Society’s Pioneers of Western Swing in 2001, and has been a faithful participant in their ongoing festivities every year.



Tony still plays West

*Continued on page 5*

**MUSICIANS by ALICIA FOX (FOX)**



**2025 UPCOMING BANDS**

January 5	Rob Shotwell & Let the Horses Run
February 2	Bob Woods Swing
March 2	Kenny Meile & Cousin Crickett
April 6	TBA
May 4	Janice Allen & All the Queen's Men
June 1	Beau Jeffers
July 6	Geoff Miller ?
August 3	TBA
September 7	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
October 3,4 & 5	Hall of Fame
November	TBA
December	TBA

**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/izFLyu3PA5qfKeL8>

**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





*Joe Bennett continued from page 3*

offered me a job. He hired a bass player and we left to make a tour of the Midwest.

From 1974 through 1976, the Steve Brooks Show toured Wyoming (Cheyenne, Laramie, Casper, Rock Springs and Jackson), North Dakota (Bowman), South Dakota (Rapid City, Aberdeen and Huron), Nebraska (Ogallala, Kearney, Norfolk and Lexington), Missouri (Kirksville), Kansas (Kansas City), Colorado (Denver, Colorado Springs and Grand Junction) and Nevada (Ely). We recorded and released several records.

During my time in radio and with various bands, I was fortunate to share the stage at times with such notables as Merle Haggard, Tommy Collins, Steve Brooks, Johnny Western, Jim Baughman and Biff Adam.

After 1976, I returned to Cheyenne, gave up bands for a time, and started as a Deputy with the Laramie County Sheriff's Office from 1978 through 1984.

In 1985, I moved to Southern California. I was not playing with bands actively, but I kept up my practicing and sat in with several bands.

In 2009, I relocated to Northern California, where in 2012 I became a drummer/vocalist for the Lincoln Highway Band, voted "Best Band" several years in a row, playing in the Northern California area – many times as the guest band at the Sacramento Western Swing Society's monthly dances.

My time with Lincoln Highway ran from 2012 through 2018 when I took advantage of an opportunity to buy a house in Idaho Falls, Idaho and relocate there.



*Tony Arana continued from page 3*



ern Swing at every opportunity. Our Western Swing Society is forever grateful to Tony for hosting our monthly jam sessions during our dances. He volunteers in so many other ways, welding safety locks for our storage unit, helping to set up and clean up, and is always there with a smile.

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



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

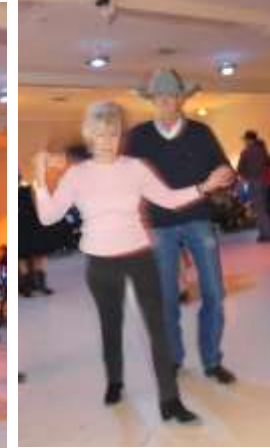


AT THE DANCE!!! (Photo's By Don deMars) See all The Photos Page 4





AT THE DANCE!!! (Photo's By Don deMars) See all The Photos Page 4





[TIME TO SWING \(Photo's Alicia Fox West \) 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.