

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



GRACE AUDREY CLARK    JAMES ROBERT WILLS

*(Go to Page 3)*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025**



### Cousin Cricket

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

**Followed by the House band**

**"The Hall of Famers"**

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

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### LOST and FOUND



## Letter from The Editor



I have to appologize to all my readers for not putting out a newsletter last month. Unfortunately the editor was sick with that nasty flu that has been going around. It feels so good to be healthy again.

The big news coming out

of our February dance is that our volunteer photographer Don deMars will not be taking



pictures or coming to our dances. He has been on a walker and



still took our dance photos. We will certainly miss his contribution and dedication to WSS.

Wow, Bob Woods and his western swing combo was incredible. When you look out on that dance floor and watch the dancers you know the band is "cooking". Bob lead the group on leadguitar and vocals. With Bob was gary Campbell of the Stardust Cowboys. Gary included some of his great original music and played acoustic guitar and sang. Other band members were Olen Dillingham fiddle, mandolin and vocals;



Joe Ybarra Pedal Steel; Brad Barnett on keyboard and vocal; Brett Cole stand up bass; John Gardiner drums. I can't thank these talented musicians enough for coming in to WSS to volunteer their talent to us. Sure hope they come back soon.

After Bob Woods played 1pm-3pm we had are rafle with are raffle volunteers Bob and Virginia Kuykendall. They have not made a couple dances and they have been missed. While they have been gone Nancy Long has run the show with Sandy Robin

*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

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Admissions Coord, Linda McCarley

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Bartender,

Decorating Chair, Open

Equipment and Staging, Arron Smith

Historian, (open)

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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*  
sons help. Thank you ladies.

Next up on stage were our "Hall of Famers". Jimmy Baughman on guitar and vocals; Ralph Chase on keyboard and vocals; Ronnie Elkan on fiddle; Arron Smith on drums and vocals; Chuck Webb on bass. Bill Cornett and Steve Clark both had that bug that's going around. We are so lucky to have talent out there to come and sing. Janice Allen, Peggy Van den Boeck, Linda Baughman, Nancy Long sang with the band.

We had quite the group in the "Jamroom Band". When you want to sit back and listen to western swing music or get up and participate, the jam room is the place to be.

We have a tip jar out front and I just want everyone to know that any proceeds, "tips", go to our scholarship fund. All the musicians and folks that work to keep this organization going are all volunteers. Thanks to everyone for helping.

See Ya on March 2 for "Cousin Cricket" They will be opening the show for Asleep at the Wheel on March 22 at The Center of the Arts in Grass Valley, CA.



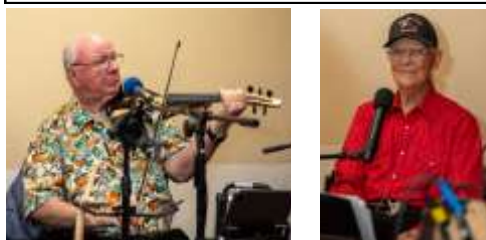
**JAM ROOM JAMMERS**



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 ads are due to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month.



**GRACE AUDREY CLARK**

Born April 17, 1950  
Inducted October 6, 2024



Grace was born in Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A. on April 17, 1950. Grace was classically trained in piano, starting at age 9 and continuing through high school. She played baritone horn in her school bands in Englewood and Beaver Creek Ohio. She served as President, Student

Director and Accompanist (piano) for her high school choir. While earning BSEE and MSEE degrees in Electrical Engineering at Purdue University, she played baritone horn in the Purdue All-American Marching Band, and served as First Chair Solo Baritone Horn in the Symphony Band. She later earned a Ph.D. ECE (Electrical and Computer Engineering) at the U. of California Santa Barbara.

While working her day job at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, CA, she remained active in music at a professional and semi-pro level. She co-founded and lead the Wild Rye Bluegrass Band and the Brushy Peak Bluegrass Band, playing 5-string banjo and singing. She also sang in classical choirs and Sweet Adelines Barbershop choruses. She currently leads the Western Swing band, "Grace Clark & Swingitude."

Grace's father and paternal grandfather played multiple instruments, and she grew up admiring many musicians in multiple genres. These include

Bob Wills, Milton Brown, Hank Williams, Riders in the Sky, Asleep at the Wheel, Sons of the San Joaquin, Hot Club of Cowtown, Freddie Green, Louis Armstrong, Django Reinhardt, Patsy Cline, Elvis Presley, Flatt & Scruggs, Bill Monroe, the Osborne Brothers, the Stanley Brothers, et. al.

As a child, she loved to watch and listen to the Renfro Valley Barn Dance,

Midwestern Hay Ride (with Homer & Jethro et. al.), the Louisiana Hayride, the Grand Ole Opry, and Hee Haw.

In the more classical genres, Grace enjoyed the Ferranti & Teicher piano duets (she performed some of them in school concerts with her friend). She was influenced by Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme, Mel Torme, and especially the Lawrence Welk Show (on which Grace's cousin, Jack Imel, played marimba, sang and danced).

First big non-classical professional performance was with my band, Brushy Peak, on the 1987 CBA Father's Day Bluegrass Festival main stage (Grass Valley, CA). Names of well-known bands and/or performers with which nominee has played:

- Rob Ickes (15-time International Bluegrass Association Dobro Player of the Year) was a long-time member of Grace's band, Brushy Peak.
- Carolyn Martin & Dave Martin, both WSS HOF members

**JAMES ROBERT "BOB" WILLS**

Born March 6, 1905 Died May 13, 1975  
Inducted October 5, 1986



James Robert Wills (March 6, 1905 – May 13, 1975) was an American Western swing musician, songwriter, and bandleader. He was born on a cotton farm in Kosse, Texas, to Emma Lee Foley and John Tompkins Wills. His parents were both of primarily English

ancestry, but had distant Irish ancestry, as well. The entire Wills family was musically inclined. His father was a statewide champion fiddle player, and several of his siblings played musical instruments. The family frequently held country dances in their home, and while living in Hall County, Texas, they also played at "ranch dances", which were popular throughout West Texas. In this environment, Wills learned to play the fiddle and the mandolin early.

Wills not only learned traditional music from his family, but he also learned some blues songs directly from African-American families who worked in the cotton fields near Lakeview, Texas. As a child, he mainly interacted with African-American children, learning their musical styles and dances such as jigs. Aside from his own family, he knew few other White children until he was seven or eight years old.

Considered by music authorities as the founder of Western swing, he was known widely as the King of Western Swing (although Spade Cooley self-promoted the moniker "King of Western Swing" from 1942 to 1969). He was also noted for punctuating his music with his trademark "ah-haa" calls.



Wills formed several bands and played radio stations around the South and West until he formed the Texas Playboys in 1934 with Wills on fiddle, Tommy Duncan on piano and vocals, rhythm guitarist June Whalin, tenor banjoist Johnnie Lee Wills, and Kermit Whalin who played steel guitar and bass. Oklahoma guitar player Eldon Shamblin joined the band

*Continued on page 5*

**RIP TONY MARTIN**



We are going to miss our good friend Tony. He was at the dance every month for years with his good friends Steve and Patti Clark. You just never knew who he was going to be dancing with.



Here he is with our Peggy. He passed away on Saturday February 15, 2025. Here is some info on his service:

Services for Tony will be held on March 7th at St Candice

Catholic Church in Nevada City. Rosary will begin at 1030 am followed by a Mass at 11 am. A reception will follow at the rectory hall. Please RSVP with Jim Knight regarding reception, Via text (530) 592-



**2025 UPCOMING BANDS**

March 2	Kenny Meile & Cousin Cricket
April 6	Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars
May 4	Janice Allen & All the Queen's Men
June 1	Beau Jeffers
July 6	Lincoln Highway
August 3	Geoff Miller
September 7	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
October 3,4 & 5	Hall of Fame
November	TBA
December	Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars

**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/qKvXEr6CUYXkCRMz6>  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/C8ynzMGJXHT2AMoD9>

**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





*James Robert Wills continued from page 3*

in 1937 bringing jazzy influence and arrangements. The band played regularly on Tulsa, Oklahoma, radio station KVOO and added Leon McAuliffe on steel guitar, pianist Al Stricklin, drummer Smokey Dacus, and a horn section that expanded the band's sound. Wills favored jazz-like arrangements and the band found national popularity into the 1940s with such hits as "Steel Guitar Rag", "San Antonio Rose", "Smoke on the Water", "Stars and Stripes on Iwo Jima", and "New Spanish Two Step". Wills and the Texas Playboys recorded with several publishers and companies, including Vocalion, Okeh, Columbia, and MGM. In 1950, Wills had two top 10 hits, "Ida Red likes the Boogie" and "Faded Love", which were his last hits for a decade. Throughout the 1950s, he struggled with poor health and tenuous finances. He continued to perform frequently despite a decline in the popularity of his earlier hit songs, and the growing popularity of rock and roll. Wills had a heart attack in 1962, and a second one the next year, which forced him to disband the Texas Playboys. Wills continued to perform solo.



The Country Music Hall of Fame inducted Wills in 1968 and the Texas State Legislature honored him

*Continued on page 9*

*Grace Clark continued from page 3*

- Junie Fisher - IWMA Entertainer of the Year, recipient of multiple honors.
- Bobby Black - WSS HOF steel player, Saddle Cats, et. al.
- Kristyn Harris - IWMA Entertainer of the Year, recipient of multiple honors.
- Ridge Roberts - Fiddler with the Western Flyers)
- Sylvia Herold - Hot Club of San Francisco, Wake the Dead, et. al.
- Joyce Woodson - WMA Songwriter of the Year, recipient of multiple honors.)
- Jim Nunally was the guitar player in Grace's first band, Wild Rye. He went on to play with Nell & Jim, David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, John Reischman & the Jaybirds, and many others.

• Smilin' Jim Eanes (Legendary guitar player and singer with Flatt & Scruggs, and Jim Eanes & the Shenandoah Mountain Boys). Jim chose Brushy Peak to be his back-up band for his 1992 tour to California.

Performers with whom nominee has "shared the stage" include:

- Patsy Montana, Riders in the Sky, The Western Flyers, Devon Dawson,
- Tommy Thomsen, Bobby Flores, Barry Ward, Belinda Gail, Daron Brown, Hiram Posey, Ricky Skaggs, Bill Monroe, Osborne Brothers, Berline, Crary & Hickman, John Hiatt, Hot Rize, Suze Spencer,
- Johnson Mountain Boys, Bluegrass Cardinals, Eddie Adcock, Seldom Scene, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Jim & Jesse, et al.

Names of well-known locations where nominee has performed:

*Continued on page 9*

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



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

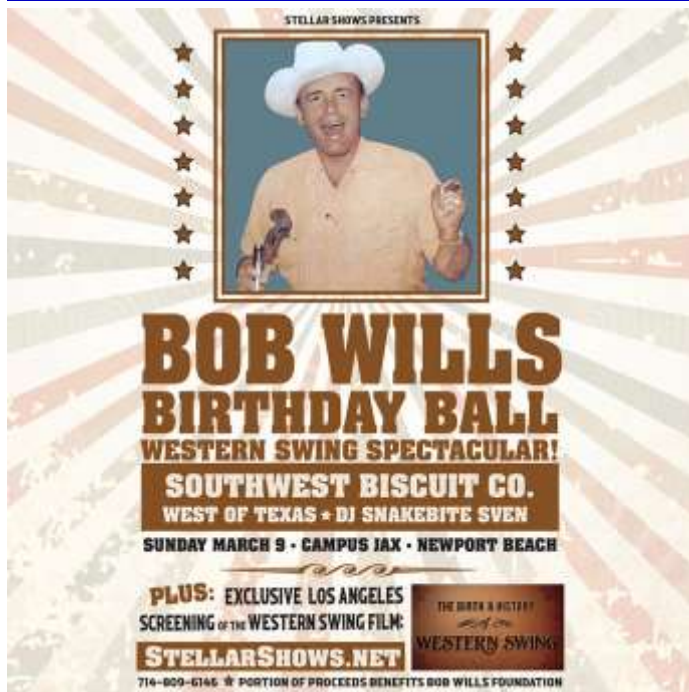




AT THE DANCE!!! (Photo's By Don deMars) See all The Photos Page 4



## THINGS OF INTEREST



STELLAR SHOWS PRESENTS

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**BOB WILLS**  
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OR EMAIL MAEMCCOYMUSIC@GMAIL.COM

MAE McCOY'S ALBUM IS HERE

## WSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 11, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6pm by President Ronnie Elkan via Zoom There was no Board Meeting in December or January due to holiday conflicts and illness.

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

**PRESIDENT REPORT:** Our February Valentine's Dance was a great success. Our monthly attendance continues to grow. We had 157 paid attendees on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our dance lesson is very-well attended.

**NEWSLETTER:** Ronnie Elkan apologized he was unable to get the January Newsletter published because he had the terrible flu that has been going

around. Mae McCoy will continue to provide articles to add to the Newsletter. Mae McCoy has been producing beautiful fliers for our Facebook postings and Website. Mae McCoy suggested we start earlier to work on promoting the Hall of Fame – to have a huge vision and new ideas such as selling tickets in advance and working with local radio stations for interviews and advertising,

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ralph Chase had questions of how our Membership/dues works. It is an annual membership renewing each July 1<sup>st</sup> and being prorated if purchased any other month. Ideas were discussed of having a data-base connected to the Website for memberships Nick Dennis suggested we remind members that renewal is due July 1st.

We have all missed having our Special Friend and very valuable Volunteer, Eleanor, who manages and makes our popcorn during each dance. We look forward to her return.

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

Sandy Robinson, Secretary



Spring





*Grace Clark continued from page 5*

- Western Swing Society Dances and Hall of Fame Celebrations (Sacramento, CA) - Multiple performances, multiple years.
- International Western Music Association (IWMA) Festival (Albuquerque, NM) - Multiple years
- Northwest Western Swing Music Society (Enumclaw, WA) - Multiple years
- International Western Music Association (IWMA) Concert at the Autry Museum of the West, Griffith Park, Los Angeles, CA, June 2023.
- Monterey Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival (Monterey, CA) - Multiple years
- Salinas Rodeo "Cowboys & Cabernet Shows" (Salinas, CA) - Multiple years
- KVMR Live Radio (Nevada City, CA)
- KQED Live Radio (San Francisco, CA)
- KUOP Live Radio (U. of the Pacific, Stockton, CA)
- Breckenridge Country and Bluegrass Festival (Breckenridge, CO)
- California Bluegrass Association (CBA) Father's Day Bluegrass Festival (Grass Valley, CA) - 5 years
- Midsummer Bluegrass Festival (Grass Valley, CA) - Multiple years
- Bowers Mansion Bluegrass Festival (Carson City, NV) - Multiple years
- Gold Country Bluegrass Festival (Plymouth, CA) - Multiple years
- Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival (Fallon, NV) - Multiple years
- Northern CA Bluegrass Society (NCBS) Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival (Tres Pinos, CA) - Multiple years
- Freight & Salvage Coffee House, Berkeley, CA
- Paul's Saloon, San Francisco, CA
- Multiple venues in a 3-week tour of Japan with the Purdue U. Symphony Band, representing the United States - including the 1970 World's Fair in Osaka, and multiple concerts in Tokyo, Nagasaki, Nagoya, and Hiroshima. At Hiroshima, the band played in the internationally broadcast commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, August 6, 1945 (the Purdue Band played the Japanese national anthem, and a Japanese band played the United States' national anthem, as well as other songs).
- Multiple venues during a 2-week tour of St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia with the Pride of the Pacific Barbershop Chorus - including: The State Academic Cappella after Glinka (built by Catherine the Great), the State Museum Peterhof (built by Peter the Great), the Rose Pavilion at the Pavlovsk Museum, the Chamber White Hall of Sheremetiev Palace, and the Theatre of Musical Comedy.
- Indianapolis Motor Speedway, multiple performances with the Purdue U. All-American Marching Band (Indianapolis, IN).

List of any awards or formal recognitions received by nominee to his or her musical career

- International Western Music Association (IWMA) Finalist, Western Swing Album of the Year (2023).
- IWMA Top Ten Western Swing Albums (Reaching Number 6).
- Instructor for IWMA Short Course on Western Swing Rhythm Guitar (2021, 2022, 24).

• Instructor for multiple Vocal and 5-string Banjo Workshops at major Bluegrass festivals.

• First Chair Solo Baritone Horn in the Purdue U. Symphony Band.

• President, Student Director, and Accompanist (piano) for high school choir.

Nominee's personal reasons for involvement in and support of Western Swing Music

Grace loves the way Western Swing music uses swing/jazz chord progressions and melodies to tell the stories of beautiful western scenery, tender love, and the joy of dancing the night away.

Publications/Discography

- Grace Clark, *Dancin' With Swingitude*, CD, Duck Run Music (2023).
- Grace Clark, "Introduction to Western Swing/Jazz Rhythm Guitar," Short course, International Western Music Association Festival, Duck Run Music (2021, 2022, 2024), 112 pages.
- Brushy Peak Bluegrass Band, "Panhandle Rag," BP01 (1985).
- Brushy Peak Bluegrass Band, "Up On Brushy Peak," BP02 (1987).
- Brushy Peak Bluegrass Band, "Wild Horse Under a Georgia Moon," BP03 (1990).

*Bob Wills continued from page 5*

for his contribution to American music. In 1972, Wills accepted a citation from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in Nashville. He recorded an album with fan Merle Haggard in Wills and the Texas Playboys in 1999. 1973. Wills suffered two strokes that left him partially paralyzed, and unable to communicate. He was comatose the last two months of his life, and died in a Fort Worth nursing home in 1975.[5] The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted

**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>  
**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>

**Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station** **Contact: Rhonda Rogers 916-240-8736** email: [info@rhondalynn.com](mailto:info@rhondalynn.com) website: [www.rhondalynn.com](http://www.rhondalynn.com) [facebook.com/rhondalynn66](https://www.facebook.com/rhondalynn66)

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.