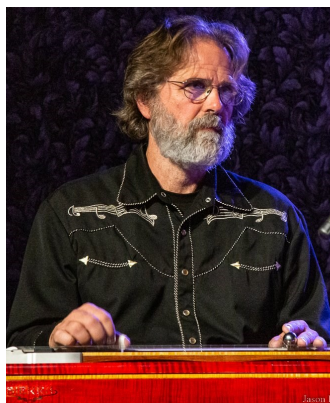


THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



DAVE ZIRBEL



ROY NALL

(Go to Page 3)

SUNDAY, August 3, 2025

Letter from The Editor

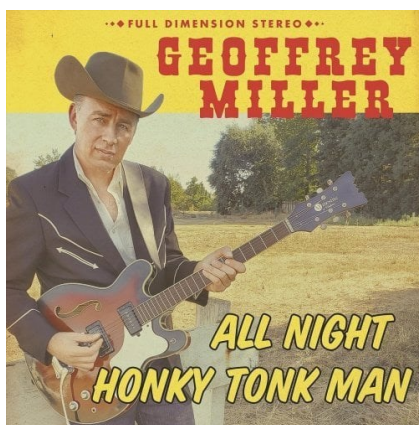


Alright, we did it again, it was a great dance. Popcorn machine is back in full swing thanks to Board member Sandy Robinson and volunteer Caroline Kennedy. This is always a big hit at the dances. We sure miss Eleanor Ford and hope and pray she is doing well.

The dance started off with our dance lessons with Dave West. What a hit this has become for folks that want to learn and pros. The dance lessons kick off at 12pm right before the first band at 1pm. You got to give this a try!

We used some of the "Grant Money" that Vice President Mae McCoy got from the City of Rancho Cordova to buy new microphones for the stage. Every

Continued on page 2



GEOFFREY MILLER

1:00pm-3:00pm

Followed by the
House band

"The Hall of
Famers"

3:00pm-5:00pm

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**FREE DANCE
LESSONS**

**With Admission @
12:00 pm**

*Thank
You
Volunteers*

**\$10
AT THE
DOOR**

AUGUST 3, 2025

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY PRESENTS

GEOFFREY MILLER

12PM-1PM DANCE LESSON WITH DAVE WEST

1PM-3PM GEOFFREY MILLER

3PM-5PM HOUSE BAND

12PM
EAST COAST SWING
&
LINE DANCE
LESSON



Live Music, Fun and Dancing

JAM ROOM

50/50 RAFFLE

FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

MACHINIST HALL 2749 SUNRISE BLVD, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

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, Arron Smith Sr.

Bartender, Chuck

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, Alicia Fox

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

Editors Letter continued from page 1

thing that Arron Smith, our sound engineer, has suggested has made our sound much better. We've come a long way.

On the main stage we had Lincoln Highway play for us. They are always a crowd favorite and we are so fortunate to have them. The dance floor is always a tell of the tape when it is crowded. Lincoln Highway is Doug Weiss (ex-president of WSS) on vocals and bass guitar; Terry Crouson on vocal and lead

guitar; Brian McCommas on vocals and guitar; Mike Cox on

drums and Larry DeLeon on vocals. Thanks for coming in and giving us your time and talent.

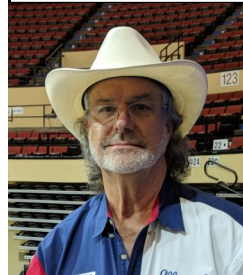
Next up was our house band "The Hall of Famers". They did a great job with Jimmy Baughman on vocals and guitar; Ralph Chase on vocals and piano; Brian McCommas on vocals and guitar; Bill Cornett on vocals and drums; Steve Clark on vocals and bass guitar and Ronnie Elkan on fiddle. Arron Smith also came up to sing and play drums. Brian McCommas also

helped Arron out running sound and setting the gear up. Coming up to sing was Mae McCoy, Janice Allen, Linda Baughman, Nancy Long and Rhonda Lynn Rogers.

Jamroom band smoked it as usual. We are so fortunate to have the greatest jamroom band anywhere and I've heard that from all the folks from Texas to Sacramento. Thanks to all of you.



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!

COME IN AND JAM



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.

DAVE ZIRBEL

Inducted October 6, 2024



Born: Alhambra CA February 23, 1963
He started playing tuba/ souphophone in fourth grade. Became interested in electric guitar at age 12 when his late uncle loaned him Beatles and Rolling Stones records. He was influenced by rock bands that used pedal steel that eventually led me to country/ swing/roots music.

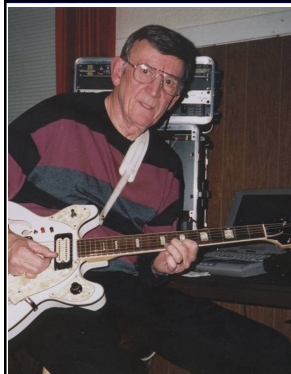
At the age four he was requesting to listen to Roger Millers Golden Hits. Also the kids tv shows like the Banana Splits and the Monkees, etc. had a big influence on him regarding performing.

He does not remember my first professional performance...probably early 80's playing top 40.

After taking up steel he's had the pleasure of working with George Frayne (Commander Cody), Tommy Thompson, Kevin Russell's Familiar Strangers, Megan McCoy, Tom Armstrong And The Branded Men, Johnny Dilks & His Country Soul Brothers, Gary Wayne Claxton & the Hellbound Honkytonk Band, and Dave Gonzalez (Paladins, Hacienda Brothers, and Sone River Boys.

He played at the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival, the Portland Waterfront Blues Festival, Konocti Harbor, toured the Hawaiian Islands with Commander Cody playing the best venues on four different islands, and played some nice venues in San Francisco such as the Fillmore Auditorium, the Great American Music Hall, the Maritime Hall, DeMarcos 23 Club, and Slim's.

He has personal reasons for being involved with Western Swing: while he performs and enjoys several genres of music from several eras, he equally enjoy playing Western swing, it's a steel players dream, and I hope to continue growing musically within the genre, also it's important to keep this important piece of American musical history alive.

**ROY NALL**Born February 10, 1934 Died July 1, 2022
Inducted October 7, 2007

Born February 10th, 1934 in Asheboro, North Carolina. Grew up listening all types of music, the Opry, big band, blues and "race music"(before rock & roll). I liked the guitar but never owned one until age 20 when I enlisted in the Air Force in 1954. I bought a used Silvertone while in basic and learned a few chords. I never learned to read and only play

by ear. I always listened for guitar solos on radio and records and my favorite guitarist was and is Les Paul, a true genius.

I sold the Silvertone and while stationed at Scott Field attending radio electronics school I bought a cheap National solid body at a store in nearby St. Louis. I practiced a lot and concentrated on learning chords since I thought they were necessary to being a good lead player, although I didn't play with any group while there.

After nine months of training I was fortunate enough to be stationed at Kindley AFB, Bermuda for almost 3 years (tough duty)! While there I began playing with a group on base, playing all the clubs and functions, etc. and learning "on the job".

After about a year the Air Force built a low powered TV station (5 watts) to provide base personnel with entertainment. Although it was a low powered it still covered the island. Our band got a 30 minute weekly show going and were seen all over Bermuda. Also, the Air Force was holding a talent contest called Tops in Blue nationwide, so early 1957 the band entered, since we figured it would be a good way to get stateside for a few days. There were some conditions to entering, one being that a country group with a singer could only enter as a trio and we had 4 pieces, so we also entered as an instrumental group, playing mostly pop songs, giving us two chances. First stop was Shaw AFB, SC, where using an upright bass, which was hard to lug around, and since I knew of a fender bass and amp for sale in my hometown about 400 miles away, we borrowed a truck and drove there and bought it. We sold the upright bass at a pawn shop. Our next stop was Patrick AFB, FL where we also won, then Homestead AFB, FL where we lost.

Continued on page 10

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

MISSION OAKS***THERE'S A COUNTRY DANCE ON TUESDAY AFTERNOONS***

If you enjoy dancing and have Tuesday afternoons free, then you have the opportunity to enjoy a great country dance. It's sponsored by The Mission Oaks Senior Center – 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael and held every Tuesday of the month from 1:15 to 3:45pm and features the live music of The LINCOLN HIGHWAY Trio. There's ample, close-by parking; large, clean dance floor; free snacks at break - \$8 cover at the door. Come on by and check us out.



WESTERN SWING MUSIC at The SONOMA COUNTY FAIR

Tommy Thomsen will be at the Sonoma County Fair with his band on August 8th 2025. Three sets at 4:00, 5:00, and 6:00 pm..

2025 UPCOMING BANDS

August 3	Geoff Miller
September 7	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
October 3,4 & 5	Hall of Fame
November 2	Rob Shotwell & Let the Horses Run
December 7	Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars
January 4	The Baughmans

COMING THIS DECEMBER

A Nashville Christmas

Presented by Meghan "Mae" McCoy

A celebration of Western Swing, holiday cheer, and surprise guests.

Full band announcement coming soon...

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

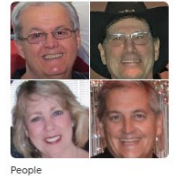
**PICTURES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT**

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
- Once back at the home page, click on Albums in the left column
- To find all photos of a particular person, click then click 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.



People



IMG_8116.MOV

PHOTO LINKS

Monthly Dance Photos April Dance

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Kt9t5D5EYAkSGc897>

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

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**



WSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 15, 2025

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 Guest: Nick Dennis

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ronnie Elkan reported a very successful July dance. Everyone enjoyed having the Lincoln Highway band playing for us once again! The Lincoln Highway poster will be saved in hopes they don't truly retire. Ronnie thanked Ralph Chase for managing the air conditioning – the Hall was very comfortable for the July dance.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We are so fortunate to have Linda Bentley as our Treasurer. Our June Report was approved via email. Her work is so vital to our success.

NEWSLETTER REPORT: Ronnie Elkan acknowledged how fortunate we are to have the talent of Alicia Fox Photography for such great pictures of our dancers, bands and Jam Room. What a beautiful addition the pictures make to our monthly Newsletter. Ronnie thanked Vice President Mae McCoy for contributing great articles for our Newsletter.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR REPORT: Our Publicity Director and Vice President, Mae McCoy, is a very busy lady. Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars are playing all over Northern and Central California these days. They were at the State Fair, too. Mae McCoy is keeping the tradition and heritage of Western Swing bands and music in the spotlight. Go to Mae McCoy's website at MeghanMcCoy.com to get all the scoop of Mae bringing a "Nashville Christmas" and Annual Toy Drive to our December Dance – featuring The Farmer & Adele. Go to her Website and listen to the unique music and incredible talent of one of Nashville's most charming and dedicated Western Swing bands that will be featured at our December dance.

NEW BUSINESS: Arron Smith thanked Brian McCommas for his help in setting up and breaking down the House Band at our July dance. We are in need of one or two Direct Inputs for our stage bands. Ronnie Elkan Moved and it was unanimously Approved to purchase these Direct Inputs.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT: Secretary Sandy Robinson reported that we had a very successful "comeback" with our new Popcorn Machine and Popcorn Manager – Volunteer Caroline Kennedy. Thank you, Caroline Kennedy! You were a Rock Star!!! We couldn't exist without our Volunteers!! Also thank you Vickie Seaborg for helping our Board of Directors Member, Linda McCarley, at the Front Door cash register at our July Dance. It was a very busy day with July being the month to Renew your Annual Membership. And we are always grateful to Jack and Beverly Sales for providing a color-copy of our Monthly Newsletter at each table – this is "their time and their dime" for the copying, paper and expensive color ink!!! And it was great to have Bob and Virginia Kuykendall back from their long Texas vacation! They always volunteer their time to sell our Raffle Tickets! Thank You Volunteers!!!

ADJOURNMENT: Called at 7:00pm Minutes By Sandy Robinson (Secretary)

RAFFLE WINNERS (Photo's By Alicia Fox)



July 2025 By Meghan By WSS Vice President Meghan "Mae" McCoy



A Long Time Coming: Opening for Dale Watson

By Meghan "Mae" McCoy

What's meant for you will find you. Sometimes it just takes the long way around.

Opening for Dale Watson in Santa Cruz this past weekend wasn't just another night on stage. It was a knot I'd been untying for over a decade.

15+ years ago, I was a kid running a lab during the day. I'd sing jazz standards to the patients in the waiting room. We'd sing together, "*A-tisket, a-tasket A brown and yellow basket*"—you get the picture. They were nearing the edge, but when we sang, it felt like we all had miles to go. One of my favorites, John T, would smile at me and say, "*Kid, don't ever get old.*"

I still hear him sometimes.

I booked a solo trip to Lubbock, TX that year. I wanted to see Dale Watson and the Texas Playboys. Dale's show was canceled. I went anyway. I saw the Playboys. I met Tommy Allsup and Leon Rausch. Something about that weekend carved a groove in me I never climbed out of.

Then life came.

A marriage.

Two kids.

A career in law enforcement.

An album.

A band.

And still, the music stayed.

I didn't chase it. I just built what I believed in. And, like it always does, it found its way back.

Dale and his wife, Celine Lee, are keeping tradition alive without killing the fire. That night reminded me, you don't wait for a place at the table. You carve your own seat out of the wood.

That's what I've been doing.

At the Western Swing Society, I've dragged some of this tradition forward by implementing professional photography to capture our people like they deserve to be remembered, dance lessons that filled the floor with fresh energy, a historical film screening to tie the old to the now, and cross-generational lineups that let the legends and the younger players share the same light, one of whom is now playing the Grand Ole Opry.

A Nashville Christmas in Rancho Cordova (Featuring The Farmer & Adele) follows the same path. It started like most things I've built, an idea, a few strong hands, and just enough belief to get it moving. Local businesses stepped up. And now, it's more than a show. It's part of a rhythm I've been carving out for a while.

This isn't extra work. It's what makes something last.

That night in Santa Cruz wasn't about ego, it was proof. The good work speaks. The right moments show up. And no one can shut a door you built with your own two hands.

Next stop: Arthur, Illinois. Opening for Tony Booth.

A long time coming, but right on time.

To read more or stay in touch, visit:

www.meghanmccoy.com

or write to me at meghan@meghanmccoy.com



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



DANCING AND VISITING AT WSS !!!!!(PHOTOS BY ALICIA FOX)



Roy Nall continued from page 3



Immediately Strategic Air Command commandeered us and we flew to Lincoln, NE to perform two benefit shows, appearing with other AF acts for cowboy actors Andy Devine and Marion Marlowe of the Athur Godfrey Show. Since by now we had been away from our units for weeks and no one knew where we were, and no pay, we had to beg a ride to NJ on a Colonel's plane, get the Red Cross to help with train fare to Charleston, where we got a flight back to Bermuda. We finally convinced our outfits we hadn't been AWOL and things got back to normal.

In September '57 I was transferred to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, near Shreveport. I immediately began scouting the local spots for a place to play, and since there were plenty of guitar players around I said I was a bass player, still having the Fender bass. I did a few jobs with Dale Hawkins who just had a hit with Susie Q but I didn't like the music so I quit.

I began playing the Skyway Club in Bossier City, one of the bigger clubs and where a lot of the Louisiana Hayride regulars came out and sat in. I played for and met many greats including Johnny Horton, Carl Belew, David Houston, Jimmy Day (steel player), Jimmy C. Newman and many more.

I continued playing after being discharged from the AF but the pay wasn't that great so after 3 months I reenlisted. I continued playing guitar part-time in Iceland, Libya and stateside. In 1962 I was transferred to McClellan and started playing local clubs. After my discharge in 1964 I stayed in California playing with various groups until around 1971 when I formed my own band, the Westernaires, and played around the area until 1994. We played mostly private clubs, Moose Lodges, VFW's, etc. I broke up the band and have only played occasionally since, doing a lot of jams and even running one of my own for a short time. For the last couple of years I've been inactive due to various health problems although I have a small studio at home and try to make the Western Swing Society functions. I've made many friends and always enjoy seeing them and talk about old times!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS (JUST A FEW)!!!!!! (PHOTOS BY ALICIA FOX)



VISITING AT WSS (Photos By Fox West Photos) See all the photos on 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. 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>
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%2027%20outlaws>

Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station **Contact: Rhonda Rogers** 916-240-8736 email: info@rhondalynn.com website: www.rhondalynn.com 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

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE
PLEASE RENEW TODAY.
THANKYOU

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

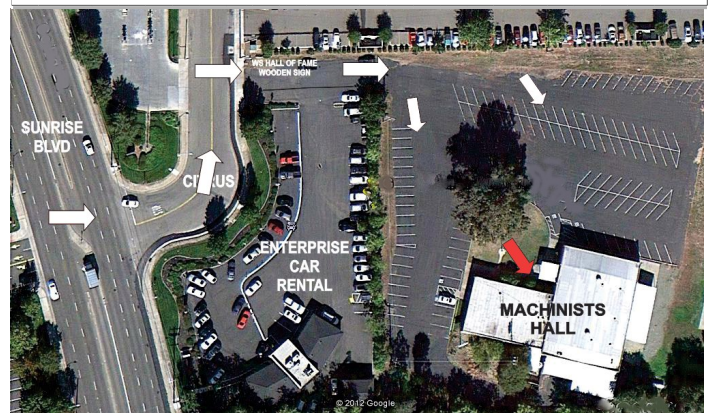
The Western Swing Society holds a music and dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands and artists and jam sets.

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.