

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



DON BURNHAM



CHARLIE NICKRENZ

(Go to Page 3)

SUNDAY, April 1, 2026

Letter from The Editor



As expected these days we had an incredible turnout. I sure do look forward to our dances. Coming up we have Rhonda Lynn and Edgewood Station. This group is always a big hit with our dancers. In May we will have the "Good Bye Tour" of Don Burnham and the Bolos. Don is moving to New

Zealand and has been taking his band around to different venues here in California. Don has always been a supporter of The Western Swing Society and western swing music. You can read more about him on page 3 in this issue. He is also a Hall Of Famer and has a great band.

Please take a look at the food for this month on page 4 as American Legion will not be serving.

Continued page 2.

Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
 Sat. May 9, 2026
 6:30- 9:30
 Country Music Plus

Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
 1:00pm-3:00pm

Followed By "The Hall of Famers"
 3:00pm-5:00pm

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CHECK OUT PHOTOS On Page 4

Western Swing Society Presents

RHONDA LYNN & EDGEWOOD STATION



Sunday April 5, 2026

12pm Horseshoe
 Free Dance Lesson
 1pm Rhonda Lynn and Edgewood Station
 3pm Hall of Famers
 House Band

Jam Room open all afternoon
 Food and Drink available for purchase
 50/50 Raffle



Admission \$10 at the Door

MACHINIST HALL
 2749 SUNRISE BLVD
 RANCHO CORDOVA

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, Open
 Treasurer, Linda Swanson
 Secretary, Sandra Robinson
 Social Media, Sandra Robinson
 Social Media Specialist, Alicia West Fox-
Other Directors:
 Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463
 Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520
 Alicia West
 Chuck Webb
 Arron Smith
 Ralph Chase

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 Bartender, Chuck
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 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.

Editors Letter continued from page 1



Last Month The Baughmans and Friends did a great job. Linda Baughman lead the group with her vocals. Jimmy Baughman was on lead guitar; Ralph Chase on keys and vocals; Arron Smith on drums; Steve Clark on bass; Olen Dillingham on Fiddle and mandolin; Gary Roda on pedal steel; Ronnie Elkan on fiddle.

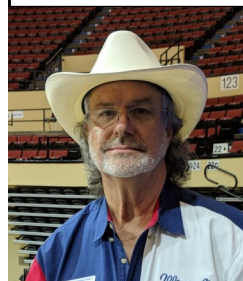
After that great show those boys in that band stayed up on stage and played the afternoon for the dancers. Bill Cornett gave Arron a break and played drums and Gary Roda had to hit the road. Janice Allen, Nancy Long, and Rhonda Lynn came up to sing. Hope to see you Sunday for Rohnda Lynn and Edgewood Station.



Ronnie Elkan (Editor)



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



DON BURNHAM

Inducted October 1 2006



He's spent most of his life behind guitars — singing and pickin', from campfire circles and coffeehouses, to dance halls and concert stages. Guitarist and vocalist DON BURNHAM is best known to audiences as the bandleader of California's LOST WEEKEND Western Swing Band (since 1985).

Born in San Francisco (June 3, 1947), DON was raised on the SF Peninsula, and he attended the University of California, where guitars, music and songwriting ultimately prevailed over other studies. Drafted by Uncle Sam in 1968, DON served in the US ARMY/Korea. He worked for a time in New York City at the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) as a news assistant, before returning to California and the West Coast music scene.

In the 1980's, DON supported his musical doings working as a seasonal park ranger, and as "Ranger Don" developed his musical interpretative program, "*Songs and Tales of California and the West.*"

After years as a folksinger, troubadour, songwriter, bandleader, and entertainer, DON'S overriding interest in swing music and traditional jazz produced the Western Swing outfit LOST WEEKEND (1985), and the NEW CENTURY JAZZ BAND (1986). Ultimately these two bands "merged" (1991).

Today, the modern Western Swing band known as LOST WEEKEND www.lostweekend.ws is internationally recognized as a leading light in contemporary Western Swing. DON was honored with his induction into the *Western Swing Hall of Fame* in 2005. LOST WEEKEND has released three albums of classic and contemporary Western Swing music.

DON is a recognized composer (BMI)—since 1975— and his original songs are featured on his 2009 album, *I Dreamed Count Basie Was A Cowboy*. (Redoubtable Records). DON continues performing today, both with LOST WEEKEND Western Swing Band, and with THE BOLOS www.thebolos.com, and also as he first began, with just his Martin guitar. www.donburnham.com

Charlie Nickrenz

Born June 30, 1955

Inducted October 5, 2025



Charles Harrington Nickrenz, Jr. (Charlie) was born June 30, 1955 in Buffalo, NY. He joined the school band in 3rd grade playing snare drum, he says he still doesn't know what possessed him. At a very young age, his dad prophetically nicknamed him 'Boomer'. He ended up taking many lessons from drum master Phil Pelletier, during

which time he was introduced personally to drum giants Alan Dawson and Buddy Rich.

His first gig in 1971 was him holding up his end of an organ/drum duo at the Newport Yacht Club in Rhode Island for a meal and \$20 in tips. His second gig was at the Rotunda at First Beach in Newport. He remembers the admission was 25 cents, and the band members each made 11 bucks. Kinda sizes up the business at the time.

Charlie went through the usual beginner bands and later found himself in Small Wonder, a Top 10 Rhode Island band in 1975, and had his first brush with original music and recording.

He later moved to Savannah, Georgia after college. He recounts this period as a wonderful time to learn with other great musicians. He began singing around that time; he says, "You should have seen my sister's face the first time she saw that!". He worked at Rody's Music where he became a Yamaha Drum Regional Endorser. Rody's was a touring musician's hang-out, and the close-knit musical community there afforded him opportunities to play in every style of music imaginable including performing with blues greats Jimmy Thackeray and Tinsley Ellis.

He worked with several country music bands around this time and was able to fill in for a friend on a two-week stint with Toy Caldwell of the Marshall Tucker Band. A regular Sunday beachfront gig at a Hilton Head hotel brought tons of visiting musicians to enjoy the surf and views. This afforded him opportunities to jam with such pros as Larry Crane (John Mellencamp's guitarist) and several band members working for Bonnie Raitt and Delbert McClinton; a master class if ever there was one!

He moved again, this time to L.A. joining Big City, a country band featuring the great guitarist Jere

Continued on page 5

All skill levels welcome!

Western Swing Society Jam Room

Want to try out singing a song or two or playing an instrument with a group?
Join us in a comfortable environment!

1st Sunday Of The Month beginning at 12pm

2749 Sunrise Blvd Rancho Cordova, CA

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.

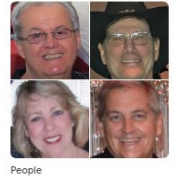


PHOTO LINKS
Monthly Dance Photos April Dance
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/6FvMDd1omv7SX7vB7>

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY

Join Us For Our Country Dance Lesson At Noon

\$10 Admission Includes Dance Lessons and Live Music

☆ 2 Step

- ☆ Country Waltz
- ☆ East Coast Swing
- ☆ West Coast Swing
- ☆ Partner Dances
- ☆ Line Dances

Common Partner and Line Dances at our events

<p>Partner Dances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cowboy Cha Cha Horseshoe Special Drifter 	<p>Line Dances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alley Cat Waltz Across Texas Power Jam Electric Slide Tush Push
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10 Step
Cotton Eyed Joe

12pm-5pm 1st Sunday Of Every Month
2749 Sunrise Blvd Rancho Cordova, CA

Our American Legion food partners are taking a break from our April event to be with their families for Easter. As an alternative we will have available:

- Sandwiches
- Salad
- Potato Salad
- Baked Beans
- Dessert

COMING UP IN MAY @ WESTERN SWING SOCIETY (All Bands on Page 9)



DON BURNHAM & THE BOLES

FEATURING MARK HOLZINGER, BING NATHAN, SCOTT LAWRENCE, JEREMY COHEN, RICK ALEGRIA, ERNIE MANSFIELD, CHARLIE WALLACE, RICHARD SASLOW, DOC STEIN, JEFF McNISH, OLEN DILLINGHAM, ERIC PRICE

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND UGLY MUG <small>(5 PM) 7:00PM DOWNBEAT 4640 SOQUEL DR. SOQUEL, CA 95073</small>	SUNDAY, MAY 3RD WESTERN SWING SOCIETY <small>(9 PM) 1:00PM - 3:00PM 2749 SUNRISE BLVD. RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95742 WESTERNSWINGSOCIETY.NET</small>	SATURDAY, MAY 9TH BACK ROOM <small>(THE GANG) 8:00PM DOWNBEAT 1984 BONITA AVE. BERKELEY, CA 94702 BACKROOMMUSIC.COM</small>
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RESERVATIONS:
DICK BRUNDLE: (408) 499-9441
UGLY MUG CAFE: (831) 477-1341
FIDDLINGCRICKET.COM

SEE ALL THE DANCE PHOTOS BY OPENEING THE LINK ON PAGE 4. THAT WAY YOU CAN VIEW ALL THE INCREDIBLE PHOTOS OF THE DANCE BY ALICIA WEST FOX PHOTOGRAPHY.



Charlie Nickrenz continued

Mendelsohn who were regulars at the venerable Cowboy Palace in Chatsworth. He also worked with Buck McCoy in North Hollywood. As a member of The Shills, Charlie worked with a variety of artists backing up touring acts from Hear Now Records and

opening for bands as diverse as the English Beat and Old Californios, who were L.A. session guys that played country music. He recorded several albums under multiple pop and alt-country guises, and performed regularly at Rusty's Surf Ranch on the Santa Monica Pier, including memorable gigs with Susanna Hoffs of the Bangles.

One more move, this time to Auburn in 2007. He got a call for a gig at the Valencia Club with the Fortunate Few with Geoff Miller, and proceeded to meet some wonderful musicians in that situation. He also joined the Sacramento Bros. and – Voila! – he was a working country musician! He later played with the band Big Iron for about six years, alongside Larry Tracy on pedal steel. He acknowledges that he was able to deepen his knowledge of the rich history of country western and of western swing.

Charlie played a memorable stint (around 16 years) with the Dying Breed years, a classic country and outlaw country-rock outfit. He provided the tempo for Valerie Kramer of the Mountain Shine Band, a country-Americana band, and helped record their album. He held down the beat for Lonesome West, a country-Americana outfit.

He joined Robby James and the Streets of Bakersfield in 2021 giving their tribute music the requisite Honky Tonk and swing sound and they recorded their first album in 2024.

He now divides his time with studio projects, Robby James and the Streets of Bakersfield, Rhonda Lynn and Edgewood Station, and Robert Urban and the Legend (because he'll always love British Invasion rock and roll!). He also joined Let the Horses Run in 2024 and was instrumental in helping Rob Shottwell record that album (featuring 4 Western Swing Society Hall of Famers).

Over 55 years and 45 bands later, he is happily a member of the Western Swing Society, enjoying the warm friendship and deep musical heritage of western swing and country at each monthly event. And, of course, he is holding down the drum throne every month at the Western Swing Society's Jam Room –

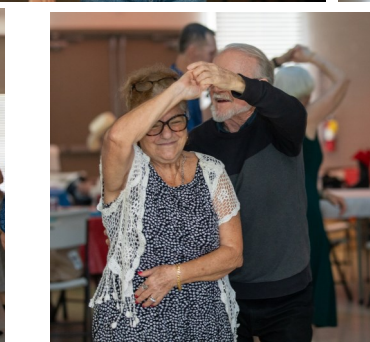
BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 10 ,2026

Meeting called to order by President Ronnie Elkan at 6pm via Zoom
 Members Present: President Ronnie Elkan, Secretary Sandy Robinson, Chuck Webb, Alicia Fox-West, Dave Rietz, and Arron Smith Guest: Nick Dennis
PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Ronnie Elkan expressed his gratitude for all our members who continue to fill our hall for our dances. It was a great March dance and the Jam Room was Hoppin'!
TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Linda Bently -- reported via email -- March Dance was well-attended with 177 guests. Our tax return has been completed and will be filed next week.
NEWSLETTER: President Ronnie Elkan acknowledged and thanked our Members Jack and Beverly Sales for Volunteering and providing (at their own expense and time) colored copies of our Newsletter on each table at our monthly dance. President Elkan also thanked Dave Rietz for posting our Newsletter and pictures on our Website.
PUBLICITY DIRECTOR: Alicia Fox-West was given praise by our Board of Directors for her continued work on FacebookFliers and advertising our monthly dance. It is the unanimous opinion of the Board that her fliers and community outreach has a huge affect to our continued increase in attendance. Alicia has great ideas to continue to expand the presence of our fliers -- promoting our Jam Room to music stores, music teachers and music students.
NEW BUSINESS: Our April dance falls on Easter Sunday. The American Legion will not be available for food service. Many ideas were discussed and being worked on to provide food, including a possible food truck or Costco food trays or pizza.
HALL OF FAME: Reminder to Members that we are open for nominations for the 2026 Hall of Fame in October. Ronnie Elkan has received about 4 nominations thus far -- and we are looking forward to more.
ADJOURNMENT: Arron Smith moved to adjourn. Chuck Webb seconded. Approved 6-0
 Sandy Robinson, Secretary

RAFFLE WINNERS (Photo's By Alicia Fox)



SWINGIN' (Photo's By ALICIA FOX WEST) GET ALL 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/>

Cowtown Birthplace of Western Swing <https://www.birthplaceofwesternswing.com/>
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](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

2026 UPCOMING BANDS

April 5	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
May 3	Don Burnham & The Bolos
June 7	Let The Horses Run
July 5	TBA
August 2	Bob Woods & Friends

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'

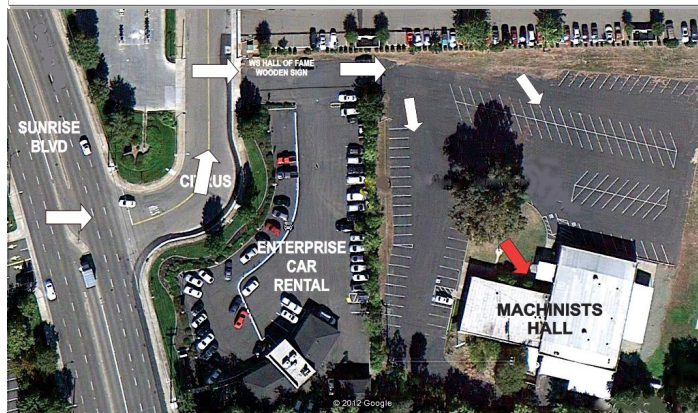
MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

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.