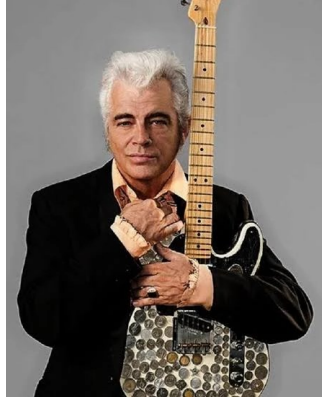


THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



JESSIE AUSTIN MORRIS



DALE WATSON

(Go to Page 3)

SUNDAY, May 3, 2026



Don Burnham & The Bolos

1:00pm-3:00pm

Followed By "The Hall of Famers"

3:00pm-5:00pm

FREE DANCE LESSONS
 With Admission @ 12:00 pm

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CHECK OUT LINK TO PHOTOS On Page 4



Letter from The Editor



Who needs the President? Yes , I was off playing with a band in Crescent City and didn't make it to the dance until 4:00pm so I missed out on making sandwiches and making music. When I finally arrived I heard from everyone on how great the dance was. I asked the board to write me a quick paragraph about the dance.

Ralph Chase wrote:

Our table set up team of Cindy and company was unavailable on Easter Sunday early. I arranged with Melissa and the the Dobbs's to have her come in on Friday evening and do the set up. It worked out great since we needed to communicate with both

Continued page 2.



Western Swing Society Presents

\$10 Admission at the Door



DON BURNHAM & THE BOLOS



Sunday, May 3, 2026

12pm Free Dance Lesson
 1pm Don Burnham & THE BOLOS
 3pm Hall of Famers-House Band

JAM ROOM *50/50 RAFFLE*

*FOOD & DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE *

Machinist Hall
 2749 Sunrise Blvd Rancho Cordova, Ca 95742

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 Bentley
 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

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 Open
 Facebook Administrator: Alica West Fox
 Volunteer Coordinator: Sandra Robinson
 Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall
 Slide Show, Janet Jimenez
 Sound Engineer, Arron Smith
 Website Manager, Dave Rietz
 Hall of Fame ; Carol Spiker

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.

Editors Letter continued from page 1
 parties for Alicia to bring prep food to the hall for refrigeration both on Friday and Saturday. It worked out great, our contacts at the hall are very accommodating and even worked with Alicia and Dave to get them in there when they weren't there. I cant say enough about the hall representatives and how incredible they have been. Our Miss Alicia is nothing short of wonderful and incredible because she single handedly pulled off an amazing meal for our people. She did the shopping, the prep, cutting up veggies at home and delivered everything to the hall. Her incredible husband was helping her the entire way. It was a classy, delicious, and well prepared meal for everyone. Because our normal food service people couldn't be there that also means Chuck didn't have a ride. No problem Dave picked him up and took him home. Dave even showed up with donuts for everyone working. Even the coffee wasn't forgotten. Hats off to those two, I know you share my admiration and love for both of them. Linda Baughman brought a few items and was in contact with Alicia as well. Bobby Lou and Sandy as well as Linda Baughman were there early to help in the kitchen, and they certainly did. I'm not sure who else was back there but those were the main players. Scrappy of course was early and willing to help with whatever needed to be done. I'm proud of our people that volunteer and pour their hearts and time into our organization. It went off perfectly, due to a lot of work by some incredible people.

Sandy Robinson wrote:

Our Easter Dance was a great success. Our Volunteers really came through for us once again!! Seven Volunteers stepped up to help in the kitchen and keep an eye on the buf

Continued on page 5

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



JESSE AUSTIN MORRIS

1932-2014

Inducted October 6 2013



Morris' first musical inspiration was his mother, who played her guitar and sang the songs of the day in the late 1930s and early 1940s. She was giving guitar lessons to help make ends meet, and started giving him lessons. He soon outgrew what she was able

to teach.

While in the Marine Corps, Morris started putting together small bands, and when out of the Marines and working at the Boeing Aircraft factory, he started trying to make a living playing music. That's when he found out why they used to call the guitar "The Starvation Box."

He played the honkytonks around Wichita and had a radio program on KBTO in El Dorado, Kansas. Next was a radio program in Newton, Mississippi. Then back to Wichita. Morris played a few Grand Ole Opry package shows as they came thru town, and made a trip to Nashville to sing on Ernest Tubbs' Midnight Jamboree.

The next stop was Colorado Springs, Colorado. Jerry Homer got them a job at Bob Holiday's Red Barn. Later Jerry and his bride returned to Oklahoma, and Morris took over the band. Later he formed The Western Ramblers, had a radio program on KPIK, played clubs the area, and performed with the Grand Ole Opry package shows that came through town

Morris started working in the advertising department at the old Colorado Springs Free Press newspaper, later moving to the Star-News newspaper in Pasadena, California. He then became a National Advertising Manager at the Las Vegas Review-Journal, later becoming business manager and playing very little music during the newspaper days.

In the late 1970s he met George Clayburn in Las Vegas. His renewed interest in music leaned heavy towards Western Swing. George had been with the Bob Wills Texas Playboys for a few years. They started to put together a group, with Luke Wills singing. Morris named the group The Texas Swing Connection.

About this time Morris started a newsletter called The Western Swing Journal. He was making yearly trips to Texas and Oklahoma to take pictures, do

Continued on next column

Dale Watson

Born October 7, 1972

Inducted October 5, 2025



Dale Watson is an award-winning hardest working real country music musician and producer who has been creating music and performing live for over 40 years. He has shared the stage with such icons as Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and Kris Kristofferson, just to name a few. He has been seen on David Letterman, Jimmy Kimmel, and Austin City Limits, but most of the time, he is touring the world, killing it for his fans, keeping the country music roots sound alive. With over 30 albums and singles, Dale knows his way around the recording studio, which is why he built Watsun Studio in Memphis, Tennessee, complete with the 1937 board from Sun Studio.

Most known for his classic anthem-like hit "I Lie When I Drink" Dale's music ranges from swing to Honky Tonk and Rockabilly, and even scored the movie "Yellow Rose." His instrumental album "Memphians" was recorded at the Wat-Sun Studio for that most authentic sound.

As an actor, he was honored to work with Stephen King and John Mellencamp on the Musical Ghost Brothers of Starkland County, starred in the film Yellow Rose, and appeared in and contributed his voice to multiple nationwide commercials.

His lifelong respect and love of original country music are the foundation for all his music and his Ameripolitan Awards, which celebrate young up-and-coming country artists and legends. The Awards focus on Honky Tonk, Rockabilly, Western Swing, and Outlaw Country Music. Awards go to singer-songwriters, DJs, venues, Festivals, and musicians from those genres. Voting is comprised of fans and industry professionals, resulting in a much anticipated evening for over 10 years.

Currently, Dale continues to do what he loves... tour his ass off, write music, be in the studio, and spend time with friends and his wife, Celine

Currently, Dale continues to do what he loves... tour his ass off, write music, be in the studio, and spend time with friends and his wife, Celine

Jessie Austin Morris Continued

interviews and attend Western Swing events. The newsletter grew from four pages to forty-four and lasted about twenty years. The economy and his health both started to decline at the same time, so he discontinued the newsletter in hopes of bringing it back to life later. So far that has not happened. The past issues of his Journal are a treasure trove of western swing history and lore.

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.

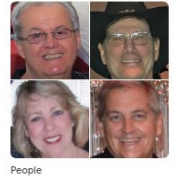


PHOTO LINKS

Monthly Dance Photos April Dance
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/88XD7bRURURXgQMA9>

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> <p>Cowboy Cha Cha</p> <p>Horseshoe Special</p> <p>Drifter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Step</p> <p>Cotton Eyed Joe</p>	<p>Line Dances</p> <p>Alley Cat</p> <p>Waltz Across Texas</p> <p>Power Jam</p> <p>Electric Slide</p> <p>Tush Push</p>
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12pm-5pm 1st Sunday Of Every Month
2749 Sunrise Blvd Rancho Cordova, CA

Let's Eat!

PLACE YOUR ORDER AT THE BACK COUNTER

Western Swing Society Café Menu	
Serving time: 12pm-3:15pm	
Hamburger with chips or potato salad	\$9.00
Double Burger— add \$2.00	
Cheeseburger with chips or potato salad	\$9.50
Double Burger— add \$2.00	
Beyond Burger (Plant based)	\$11.00
Pulled Pork with coleslaw	\$10.00
Cobb Salad	\$11.00
Hot Dog with chips or potato salad	\$5.00
Chips	\$0.50

Food provided by The Auxiliary
ALA Unit 233 Elk Grove

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

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY PRESENTS

Admission \$10 at the Door



Let the Horses Run
 Sunday, June 7, 2025

12 pm Free Dance Lesson with Dave West
 1 pm Let the Horses Run
 3 pm Hall of Famers House Band

JAMROOM OPEN ALL AFTERNOON
 FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
 50/50 RAFFLE

Machinist Hall
 2749 Sunrise Blvd
 Rancho Cordova, CA

CAROL SPIKER GOES TO UGANDA



Carol is a member and volunteer at our WSS so I thought this would be an interesting trip she took to teach these children about music. The entire article was in the Citrus Heights Messenger and here is the link: https://locable-assets-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/file/1283048/CHM_2003-20-2026.pdf?timestamp=1774689404

Carol Spiker, a retired special education teacher and member of Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church in Citrus Heights recently



Continued on page 6

Editors Article continued from page 2
 fet table – keeping it replenished and running smoothly.

The sandwich buffet was delicious and plentiful! Alicia Fox West did all the shopping on Saturday (Costco closed on Easter Sunday) – Sandwiches, potato salad, green salad, baked beans, chips and cookies were abundant – and Bobbie Lou donated chocolate bars, too! Thanks to our generous Western Swing family – we even made a small profit.

We missed our American Legion kitchen staff on Easter as they took the Easter Sunday off to be with their families, but – they will be back! Our Western Swing Family proved once again that WORKING TOGETHER, MAKES ANYTHING POSSIBLE!! Thank You Volunteers!



We are saddened to hear that our long-time Western Swing Member, Tony Fuentes, passed away on April 8 th due to complications from a fall at his home. Tony & sister, Rose Fuentes, is one of our

valued Volunteers making and serving popcorn at our dances. Our Sincere Condolences to Rose and all

her family. We will miss Tony Great Dancing, Huge Smile and Special Hugs!

Alicia West Fox wrote: House Band, “Hall of Famers”, was Steve French, Bill Cornett, Arron Smith, Ralph Chase, Brian McCommas, Steve Clark, Jimmy Baughman, Olen Dillingham , Nancy Long, Linda Baughman Rhonda Lynn and Edgewood Station- Rhonda, Charlie Nickrenz, Steve French, Brad Barnett, guitar player and bass player

April WSS Dance had a great attendance even with falling on the holiday! I want to give a huge thanks to Linda Baughman and Bobbi Lou Doble for helping prep food and assemble sandwiches and massive gratitude to Sandy Robinson and her crew of volunteers that watched over the food while our American Legion food service was off for the holiday. Also, thank you to everyone that stops to flash me a smile on the dance floor or from the stage! You all make my heart so happy spending the 1st Sunday of the month with you, where we feel like we are at home.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 14 ,2026

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

Members Present: President Ronnie Elkan, Treasurer Linda Bentley, Secretary Sandy Robinson, Dave Rietz, Alicia Fox West, Ralph Chase and Chuck Webb.

Guest: Nick Dennis

PRESIDENT REPORT: President Ronnie Elkan arrived later in the afternoon from an out-of-town gig to find our Easter Dance was in full swing and a great success –the dance floor was full, the Jam Room jammin & and plenty of food available for our guests!

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer, Linda Bentley thanked Alicia Fox West for Chairing our Sandwich Buffet Table and for the help of all our Volunteers – We even made \$269 profit on our lunch. We had 131 guests in attendance for Easter Sunday. Our Tax Return has been submitted and paid for. The Report was Approved 7-0

NEWSLETTER: Our Hall of Fame Nominee Applications are coming in. Ralph Chase will put together the Committee to review the applications. Alicia Fox West has designed the new template for advertising our October Hall of Fame. Alicia and Dave Rietz will be looking into a new CANVA Program to publish our Newsletter, as Microsoft is canceling Publisher.

WEBSITE MANAGER: Dave Rietz reported the Website is functioning well. Dave will be working with Alicia to redesign the Website.

JAM ROOM: Chuck Webb and Dave Rietz reported that our Jam Room has been outstanding. We are embracing new people each month. Our passion for Western Swing starts in the Jam Room. Several new musicians welcomed recently told them they feel they have found a “New Home”.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Sandy Robinson reported that our Volunteers really came through for us to make sandwiches and watch over and replenish our Easter Sunday Sandwich Buffet. Our Popcorn gals are Amazing! Thank you all Volunteers!
Sandy Robinson (Secretary)

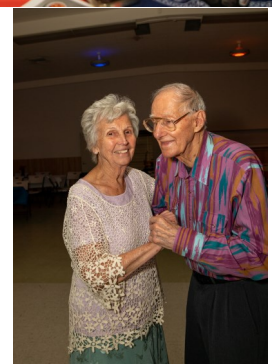
Carol Spiker continued from page 5: returned from a two-week symposium mission trip to the capital city of Kampala, Uganda where she brought her lifelong love of music to a young group of special education students. It wasn’t long before Spiker was affectionately given the nickname of “Jaja,” a Ugandan word for grandmother as she delighted the children with both her fiddle playing and teaching them how to play the kazoo. Spiker was recently welcomed back from her trip by Celtic Cross Pastor Sam Jun who invited her to share the details of her trip with the congregation and Joy Lineback who chairs mission outreach work for the church.

RAFFLE WINNERS (Photo’s By Alicia Fox)

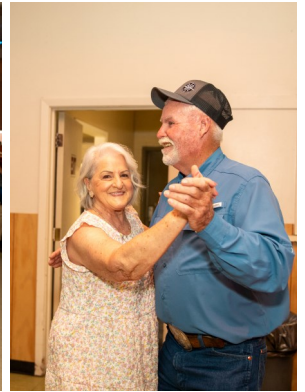


I'M GONNA CALL THE TICKET GUY "SHORTY"

VISITING WITH FRIENDS (Photo's by Alicia Fox West)



DANCIN' (Photo's by Alicia Fox West)





HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

THE TIMING

January 1—May 31st: Submissions of nominees for consideration accepted from a member in good standing

June: Hall of Fame Selection Committee reviews and chooses 12 nominees to be inducted in the Hall of Fame. Nominations must adhere to the rules and be complete in order to be considered. Any submissions not chosen roll forward to the next year for consideration

July: Board signs off on the chosen inductees. Inductees are notified and told about our Hall of Fame Event details

August: List of inductees first appear in the newsletter

September: Photos of inductees appear in newsletter. List of HOF bands in newsletter

October: The three day celebration, culminating in the Induction Ceremony on Sunday

HOW TO AND THE RULES

Let's have another inspiring set of inductees for the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame event, the 1st Friday—Sunday in October. ***The closing date for submission of nominations is May 31st. Start NOW. Time FLIES!***

Any member in good standing may make 2 nominations, by either postal or email.

An 8 x 10 hard copy photo or a digital jpeg (at least res. 300 dpi) is required at the time of nomination.

The nomination should contain sufficient biographical information to enable the committee to evaluate the nominee's qualifications.

Nominations must include the name (as they wish it to appear in our Hall of Fame registry), address, phone numbers and email addresses (if available) for the nominee **and** the person submitting them. If the nominee is deceased, please include the name of a person who may be able to accept the award.

Mail to: Western Swing Nominations Committee,
P. O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609

It's Easy!

Nominate a musician or exceptional volunteer for this year's Hall of Fame

Time is running out. May 31st is the last date to submit your nominations for our Hall of Fame celebration!

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is a BIG HONOR, so submit a nomination and make someone's day!

1. The name, address, phone and email of member submitting the nomination
2. The name, address, phone and email of the nominee
3. The nominee's name as the nominee wants it shown in the bio and on the Hall of Fame registry
4. Biographical information about the nominee, with emphasis on involvement with Western Swing Music.
 - Birthplace and date.
 - Age at which participation in music began? How? Singing? Playing an instrument?
 - Early inspirations and influences?
 - Time and place of first professional performance.
 - Name of well-known bands and/or performers with which nominee has played.
 - Names of well-known locations where nominee has performed.
 - List of any awards or formal recognitions received by the nominee related to his or her music career.
 - Nominee's personal reasons for involvement in and support of Western Swing Music.

See the instructions in the previous column and email or mail your completed nomination information so that it is received by WSS no later than May 31st.

DON'T FORGET to include *your* phone, email and the *nominee's* phone, email and mailing address so that we can contact you.

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)

Let The Horses Run contact info (530) 228-1447

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

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'

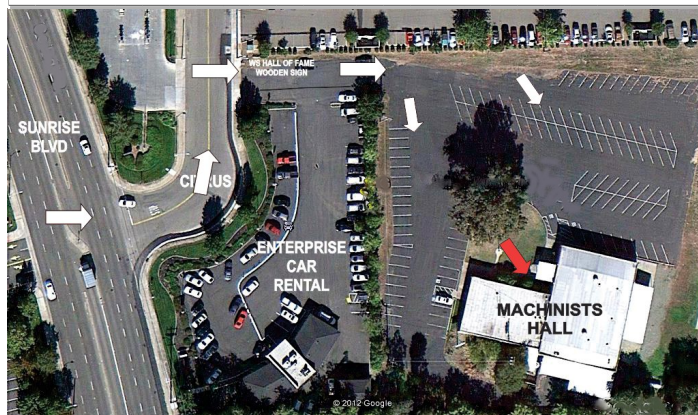
MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

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.