



Music News

Published by the Western Swing Society,
Sacramento, California

Founded in 1981 by Loyd and Perry Jones

Coming Up

July 5th
Geoffrey Miller
August 2nd
Bob Woods Swing
September 6th
Janice Allen and All the Queen's Men
October 3&4
Hall of Fame Weekend



Ronnie Elkan

Letter From The President



Big Thanks to all the dancers that made June 7 a great Sunday dance. Starting off our dance floor was packed for the monthly dance lessons taught by Dave West and his wife Alicia. Alicia Fox West is also our photographer. The dance lessons have become a big hit and Dave tries to teach dances that are tailored to the band that plays the dance. We grow a little bit each dance and I am always happy to see new faces at the dance. Our folks are so inviting and gracious, a tradition at WSS.

The guest band was Let The Horses Run. "Tall Larry" wore his Let The Horses Run-American Flag shirt in honor of the band and the 4th of July coming up. Rob Shotwell sings and plays guitar; Charlie Nickrenz sings and plays drums; Joe Ybarra plays pedal steel; Gregg Brooding plays bass guitar; Olen Dillingham sings and plays fiddle and 5-string mando; and Ronnie Elkan plays fiddle and 5-string mando. The band was swinging and had a great time. Thanks for giving your time and talent to WSS. As usual our jamroom is a big hit. I hope everyone got a chance to go back there. It gets really crowded back there because the music is so darn good. I wish we had a bigger space for the jamroom but I'm so happy it's there.

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WESTERN SWING SOCIETY
PRESENTS

ADMISSION
\$10
AT THE DOOR



GEOFFREY MILLER

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH, 2026

12 PM DANCE LESSON WITH DAVE
1 PM GEOFFREY MILLER
3 PM HALL OF FAME'S HOUSE BAND

JAM ROOM OPEN ALL AFTERNOON

FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
50/50 RAFFLE

MACHINSIT HALL
2749 SUNRISE BLVD, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

HALL OF FAMERS



Hank Thompson
Born: September 3, 1925
Died: November 6, 2007
Inducted #0198 October 2, 1988

Few country music artists can claim a longevity and track record to equal that of Hank Thompson. Between 1948 and 1974 he scored no less than thirty Top Ten hits, with another nineteen in the Top Twenty, and continued to chart into the 1980s. Many of these, including "Green Light," "Whoa Sailor," and "Waiting in the Lobby of Your Heart," he penned himself, thus proving his stature in country music's great singer-songwriter tradition. Along the way Thompson forged a potent blend of honky-tonk and western swing that has long served as a source of continuity amid country's experimentation with rock and pop sounds. Like many country stars, Henry William Thompson took an early interest in music, winning several amateur contests on the harmonica. After he became enthralled by cowboy movie idol Gene Autry, however, the guitar became Thompson's instrument of choice. With a Christmas present from his parents, a four-dollar guitar bought at a secondhand store, young Hank was on his way. By the time he finished high school he was broadcasting over radio station WACO as "Hank the Hired Hand," sponsored by a local flour company.

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Bob Boatright
Born: September 30, 1939
Died: December 28, 2008
Inducted #0199 October 2, 1988

Original Texas Playboys fiddler Mr. Boatright was born Sept. 30, 1939, in Denison, Texas. "He started taking lessons when he was 10 years old on the fiddle," said Mr. Boatright's wife, Linda in an obituary in the Fort Worth, Texas Star-Telegram. "That is what his daddy wanted him to play. He never bucked his daddy. He did what his daddy told him to." While a student in math and physics at Midwestern State University, Boatright played fiddle on the side. After graduating, Boatright worked as a math teacher at a high school, Cameron University in Lawton, Okla. and at a junior college in Gainesville, Texas. He and his family later moved to Mansfield. Boatright played the fiddle around Fort Worth at nights and on weekends. He later joined on with the Texas Playboys, founded in the 1930s by Wills. "He was the most reliable, sober musician in the group," said Leon Rausch, a leader of the Playboys who had known Boatright since the early 1970s, in the Star-Telegram. "He was my right-hand man, and it's going to be awfully hard to replace him." December 28, 2008- Bob Boatright, 69, fiddle player for Bob Wills Original Texas Playboys, died Sunday of cancer. Boatright played with Rausch for about 35 years.

Free Dance Lesson 1st Sunday of the Month 12pm-1pm

JAM ROOM

MEET YOUR HOSTS



**CHUCK
WEBB**



**DAVE
RIETZ**

COME ON IN, SING A SONG, PLAY AN INSTRUMENT AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS! LOOK FOR THE SIGN UP SHEET IF YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE OR SEE ONE OF OUR HOSTS!

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



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After graduating, Thompson enlisted in the U.S. Navy. While stationed in San Diego, he persuaded his superiors to let him play area clubs, and after putting out to sea, he entertained his shipmates as well. He kept on broadcasting, too, over a network of small stations organized by American military personnel in the South Pacific. While in the Navy he also took advantage of training programs and studied electrical engineering at Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas, and Princeton University—making him one of country music’s better-educated stars. Although he pondered an engineering career after his military stint was over, radio work and his first hit record, “Whoa Sailor,” kept him on a show business track. Assisted by prominent DJ Hal Horton of the 50,000-watt KRLD in Dallas, this Globe Records release became a minor regional success. Thompson also recorded four sides with the Blue Bonnet label before Tex Ritter, then a prominent star on Capitol Records, helped him gain a contract with this larger, major label. During 1948–49 Thompson justified Ritter’s faith in him with hits such as “Humpty Dumpty Heart” (based on the children’s nursery rhyme), “Green Light,” and a remake of “Whoa, Sailor.” During the 1950s Thompson’s songwriting talents, gravelly baritone, precise diction, and powerful combination of western swing and honky-tonk sounds helped him continue his string of hits. The year 1952 brought his first #1 disc, “The Wild Side of Life,” a song that inspired the hit that launched Kitty Wells’s career: “It Wasn’t God Who Made Honky-Tonk Angels.” Subsequent Thompson chartmakers of the 1950s included “Waiting in the Lobby of Your Heart,” “Rub-A-Dub-Dub,” “Yesterday’s Girl,” “Wake Up, Irene,” “Honky Tonk Girl,” “Most of All,” “The Blackboard of My Heart,” and “Squaws Along the Yukon,” all in the Top Ten. During these years Thompson also made inroads into television, hosting a variety show on WKY-TV in Oklahoma City from 1954 to 1957.

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WESTERN SWING SOCIETY PRESENTS
BOB WOODS SWING
 AUGUST 2ND, 2026
 12PM FREE DANCE LESSON
 1PM BOB WOODS SWING
 3PM HALL OF FAMERS HOUSE BAND
 JAM ROOM OPEN ALL AFTERNOON
 FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
 50/50 RAFFLE
 2749 SUNRISE BLVD, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

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
Partner Dances
 Cowboy Cha Cha
 Horseshoe Special
 Drifter
Line Dances
 Alley Cat
 Waltz Across Texas
 Power Jam
 Electric Slide
 Tush Push
10 Step
 Cotton Eyed Joe
 12pm-5pm 1st Sunday Of Every Month
 2749 Sunrise Blvd Rancho Cordova, CA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2026

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

- MEMBERS PRESENT; President Ronnie Elkan, Secretary Sandy Robinson, Alicia Fox-West, Arron Smith, Chuck Webb and Dave Rietz
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The entire Board was so happy to see our President Ronnie Elkan doing so well following his back surgery just the week before on Thursday, June 11, 2026, and he was able to make our meeting. Our June Dance was once again a great success with around 155 in attendance.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: The Board Approved 6-0 our Treasurer's May Financial Report.
- JAM ROOM: Dave Rietz reported the Jam Room continues to be very popular with continued excellent talent participating.
- HALL OF FAME: Ronnie Elkan announced that John Jones from Texas will be attending our Hall of Fame and would like to perform for us. A lengthy discussion was held around the possibility of a gathering (Jam Room-type Session) being held at a venue in the Rancho Cordova area. A Friday Night "Kick-Off/Welcome Party" was discussed. Dave Rietz volunteered to look into a venue for that event.
- Our Hall of Fame Induction will be held Saturday, October 3, from 11am to 1pm. There are currently eight or nine Nominations. Saturday Music and Dancing will continue until 9pm. Last year, the addition of Pizza for the evening, was quite a success. Our regular October Dance will be on Sunday, October 4.

ADJOURNMENT: Sandy Robinson moved, Arron Smith seconded. Approved 6-0.

Sandy Robinson
Secretary

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.

50/50 RAFFLE WINNERS



Remembering Bud Duncan March 18, 1928–June 13, 2026



Letter from the President

Continued From Page 1

Dave Rietz and Chuck Webb do a great job and try and get everyone up to play and sing. Brad Barnett was so helpful in setting up all the PA stuff. These guys are all volunteers.

Well HOF is creeping up on us. Man it comes fast.. I've been in touch with John Jones, President of the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest. When you get time go out to their website and check out their dances. We are on a little western swing island compared to that Texas group. Anyway John is planning a trip out here for our Hall of Fame and will be performing for us. I'm really excited. We will have our usual HOF schedule of band for that weekend so keep it open, October 3 & 4 and a possible dance on the 2nd. We are still working on it with the hall. Let me know if you would attend a dance on the 2nd.

Western Swing Society
Presents

**HALL OF FAME
FESTIVAL
WEEKEND**

**OCTOBER
3RD-4TH
2026**

**Hall of Fame
Nominations
Open Now!**

Looking forward to another great year of Hall of Fame Inductees, fabulous bands, free dance lessons, a welcoming Jam Room, great dancing, and all of our friends!

2749 Sunrise Blvd.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

A colorful graphic for the Hall of Fame Festival Weekend. It features a yellow acoustic guitar and a red drum set against a dark background with musical notes. The text is in various fonts and colors, including white, yellow, and red.

Continued from page 4

In addition, he was one of the earliest country performers to entertain in Las Vegas showrooms, and he recorded one of country's first live albums, *Live at the Golden Nugget*, there in 1960. Meanwhile, he brought his engineering knowledge to bear on his stage show and built top-flight sound and lighting systems that heightened his drawing power at the more than 250 show dates he typically played each year. Thanks to his musical and technical leadership, his Brazos Valley Boys were Billboard's top-ranked band from 1953 to 1965, a record that has yet to be equaled.

Into the 1960s and beyond, Thompson's easy manner made him a welcome guest on network TV variety shows, as did a dynamic stage presence magnified by his size (he stood six feet, two inches tall); a rough-hewn, handsome appearance; and custom-made western outfits for which he became famous. But following "A Six Pack to Go" (#10, 1960) and "Oklahoma Hills" (#7, 1961), he didn't make the Top Ten again until 1968's "On Tap, in the Can, or in the Bottle" and "Smoky the Bar," both recorded early in his association with Dot Records, which he began after a brief stay at Warner Bros. in the late 1960s. Two more Top Ten hits came in 1974, but the 1970s belonged to country-pop, and Thompson's chart success dwindled to the point where he pared down his road schedule and spent more time hunting or tending to his various real-estate, broadcasting, and music publishing interests.

In the 1980s, however, as harder-edged sounds enjoyed renewed popularity, Thompson hit the road again in earnest, playing dates in Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America as well as in the United States. He also kept recording, and he signed with Nashville's Step One Records in 1987. In 1997 Curb Records released *Hank Thompson and Friends*, a critically acclaimed collection of duets pairing Thompson with Lyle Lovett, Vince Gill, George Jones, Kitty Wells, and others. Thompson's 2000 HighTone Records album, *Seven Decades*, featured his sure handling of both new material and classic country songs he'd never recorded before. Thompson's hard-core honky-tonk and western swing sound marked by a strong rhythm section of piano, bass, guitar, and drums; lead and fill parts supplied by twin fiddles, electric guitar, and steel; frequent shifts from 2/4 to 4/4 time, and above all his powerful vocals continues to influence country artists such as George Strait, Dwight Yoakam, and Asleep at the Wheel. Hank Thompson was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1989 and to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1997. He succumbed to lung cancer on November 6, 2007, at his home in Keller, Texas.

John Rumble

Adapted from the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum's Encyclopedia of Country Music, published by Oxford University Press



PO Box 2474
Carmichael, CA 95609
Website: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

Other Directors:

Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463

Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520

Alicia Fox West (916) 397-7800

Chuck Webb

Arron Smith

Ralph Chase

Admissions Coord: Linda McCarley

Social Media/Advertising: Alicia Fox West

Bar Manager: Arron Smith Sr.

Bartender: Chuck

Equipment and Staging: Arron Smith

Historian: Open

Jam Room: Chuck Webb & Dave Rietz

Master of Ceremonies: Terry Crouson

Membership Director: Linda McCarley

Music Director: Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor: Ronnie Elkan

Photographer: Alicia Fox West

Public Relations Administrator: Ralph Chase

Volunteer Coordinator: Sandra Robinson

50/50 Raffle: Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Sound Engineer: Arron Smith

Website Manager: Dave Rietz

Hall of Fame Silent Auction: Carol Spiker

Popcorn: Caroline and Rose

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'

Membership

SCAN ME!



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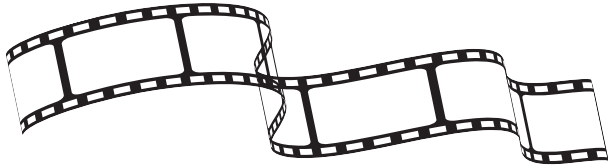
Views and opinions expressed by contributing authors are not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the Society.

Submitted articles, publicity notices and letters not relating directly to the Society or it's 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.



PICTURES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

PICTURES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:
HTTP://WESTERNSWINGSOCIETY.NET/. OR ON

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/pGrm4pA1qBLcheGS8>

TIPS:

- FROM PDF NEWSLETTER, CLICK ON LINK ABOVE 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.



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 | \$9.50 |
| Cheeseburger with chips or potato salad | \$11.00 |
| Double Burger—add \$2.00 | \$11.00 |
| Beyond Burger (plant based) | \$10.00 |
| Pulled Pork with coleslaw | \$11.00 |
| Cobb Salad | \$5.00 |
| Hot Dog with chips or potato salad | \$5.50 |
| Chips | \$0.50 |

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Food provided by The Auxiliary
ALA Unit 233 Elk Grove

**B
A
N
D
S**





PHOTOGRAPHY
BY
ALICIA FOX WEST



DANCE



OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS

Buck Ford & Pure Country:
<https://buckford.com/events/>

Geoffrey Miller Music:
<https://www.facebook.com/geoffreymillermusic?mibextid=ZbWKwL>
<https://www.facebook.com/cadillac.rodeo.90sCountry?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Carolyn Sills Combo:
<https://www.carolynsills.com/>

Cowtown Society of Western Music
 Joe Baker, Membership Director
 940-452-6300
 4361F.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.

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

Slade Rivers Band:
<https://sladeriversband.com/events/>

Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest:
 PO Box 644, Shattuck, OK 73858.
 Meets quarterly. www.wsmss.com.

Cliff Huey 27 Outlaws Band:
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=cliff%20huey%2027%20outlaws>

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

Let The Horses Run:
 Contact info (530) 228-1447
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574883143066&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Kenny and the Crickets
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100062317545410&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS
 The Western Swing Society holds a music/dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands, artists, a jam room and free dance lessons
 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm
 at The Machinists Hall
 2749 Sunrise Blvd.,
 Rancho Cordova, CA
 Donation: \$7 for Members;
 \$10 for Non-Members
 Food and Drink Available for Purchase
 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!