

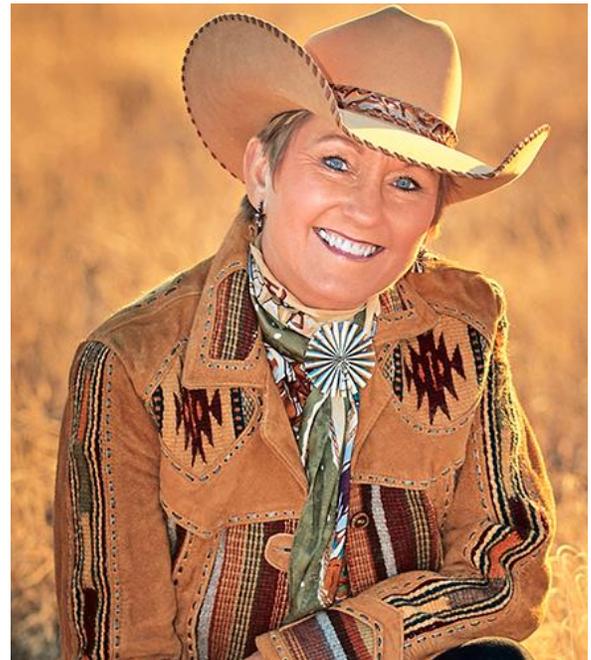


*** Bring an unwrapped toy (for ages 0-17) for Christmas in Cordova and take a family photo on your phone or camera with Santa in front of a beautiful Christmas backdrop for FREE! Provided by Rancho Cordova's Police Activities League (PAL)! (See details, pg 6)**



JAKE ERWIN

Inducted Oct. 3, 2021



JONI HARMS

Inducted Oct. 3, 2021

Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 3

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Request from our President, Rex Barnes. Help is needed to decorate. Rex does most of the planning and set-up, he just needs a little help Sunday mornings before the dance, when he is in the board meeting. Please let us know if you can help, thank you!



GUEST BAND

Sunday, December 5, 2021



Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars

1:00 to 3:00pm

Followed by The "House Band"

3:00 to 5:00pm

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, Rex Barnes (916) 704-1566
 Vice Pres, Ronnie Elkan
 Treas, Linda Swanson (530) 383-1129
 Secretary, Doug Weiss

Other Directors:

Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345
 Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463
 Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520
 Jeff Tilton (916) 798-9377
 Mary Harris (916) 991-3100
 Mae McCoy (916) 873-2023

Staff and Committee Chairpersons:

Admissions Coord, Linda McCarley
 Bar Manager, Cyndi Lee
 Bartender, Cyndi Lee
 Community Outreach, Mae McCoy
 Decorating Chair, Rex Barnes
 Equipment and Staging, Gary Blodgett
 Historian, (open)
 Jam Room, Tony Arana
 Master of Ceremonies, Terry Crouson
 Membership Director, (open)
 Music Director, Ronnie Elkan
 Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan
 Photographer, Mary Harris
 Public Relations, Jeff Tilton
 Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall
 Slide Show, Janet Jimenez
 Sound Engineer, Gary Blodgett
 Website Manager, Dave Rietz

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.

Letter from The Editor



What a great day Sunday November 7th was for the Western Swing Society. We had a Christmas Toy Drive for PAL

(Police Activities League) of Rancho Cordova. It felt so good to see our folks come to bat for this great event. Our Mae McCoy made this all happen for us here at WSS, thank you! As a matter of fact the Toy Drive went so well we will do it again at our next dance on December 5, 2021. It is such a great cause and shows that we really care at WSS.

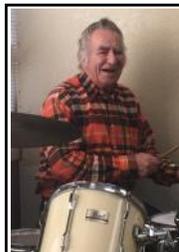


This is a great time in my newsletter to make sure you folks come out to support Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars. They will perform next dance on December 5th. They are a great band that is keeping western swing music alive and well.

We started off our Sunday dance with Janice Allen and Friends. Her band packed the dance floor. Sure glad we have a big dance floor because we needed it. Janice has so much experience singing and entertaining and it really is a joy watching her perform. Janice always brings a great blend of western swing music and great torch songs to the bandstand. Her band of "Friends" were Bobby Black, legendary steel player; Jimmy Baughman, the master guitar player; Ralph Chase, super keyboard and crooner; Carl Bower on superb bass; Bill Cornett, the

Continued on page 7

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 this email: 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.



JAKE ERWIN

Inducted October 3, 2021



Born in 1974, upright bassist Jake Erwin hails from Tulsa, Oklahoma, location of the legendary Cain’s Ballroom, home of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys. He took an interest in American roots music at an early age and decided to explore its variations through the sound of the double bass.

He has become one of the country’s premier practitioners of percussive “slap bass”, a style begun in early New Orleans jazz that continues through country, blues and even rock ‘n roll today.

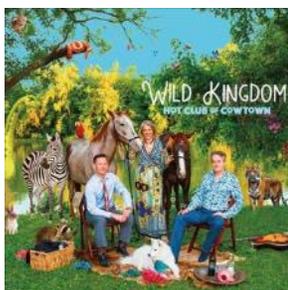
Jake has been inducted into the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame (one of the youngest members ever) and has been a featured perform-



er (with the Hot Club of Cowtown) on A Prairie Home Companion, Mountain Stage, World Cafe Live, “Later with Jools Holland” on BBC television, the Fuji Rock Festival in Japan, the Smithsonian Institution, Jazz at Lincoln Center,

a Midsummer Night’s Swing (also at Lincoln Center), to name only a few, and has toured with Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson, the Mavericks and the Squirrel Nut Zippers.

In addition to the Hot Club of Cowtown, he has had the honor of recording and playing with some of Texas’ finest performers and songwriters, including Wayne Hancock, Ronnie Dawson, The Asylum Street Spankers, Max Stalling and Kim Lenz.



JONI HARMS

Inducted October 3 2021

Joni Harms lives on a ranch in Oregon with her family that was homesteaded by her great, great grandfather in 1872, and has been an inspiration for many of her songs. “I always want the songs I sing to be a good representation of who I am.”



Joni has a warm sincerity and ease to her voice... a voice that shines through on stories and melodies of a country/western way of life, making you feel you are part of the entire experience she sings about, as



if she is singing only to you. In many ways, Joni is a pioneer and torch-bearer, knowing the country lifestyle is made up of a blend of musical sounds, giving her a unique style drawing crowds, literally, around the world.

Growing up, I learned to sing and write songs by listening to Emmylou Harris, Dolly Parton, Merle Haggard and George Strait,” says Harms. “I remember seeing Emmylou Harris, and, after playing a while with the famous Hot Band, she returned to the stage with just her black Gibson guitar and proved if you can truly sing, write a song and play your guitar, then you can entertain your audience all by yourself.”

Although it is always special to perform with a great band, Joni held onto that challenging lesson and enjoys performing for radio stations and at various events with just her guitar, showing off that pure country voice she has been praised for since she signed her first record deal with the famed music producer Jimmy Bowen of Capitol Records in the early 1990s. Any singer will tell you not everyone can entertain that way, but Joni is a master.



Continued on page 7

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Barnes at 6:11pm

Members present: Arana, Barnes, Elkan, Harris, McCarley, McCoy, Rietz, Swanson, Tilton, Weiss

Guests: Elaine Rietz

Approval of Minutes. Moved Harris, Second Swanson, Approved 8-0 September 23, 2021 as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hall of Fame (HOF). Overall a very successful event. Barnes received many positive responses to a well organized event. We lost money on the food due to the difficulty matching guaranteed dinners to actual meals purchased. Guaranteed 250 and actual purchased 158.

The American Legion will continue to provide food for our Sunday dance through the end of 2021 and not beyond. The reason for their resignation was not enough profit. The Board will look into the possibility of a food truck. Perhaps, having food available for a specific period of time and not the entire afternoon. A food truck operator will be stopping by at the November dance to discuss feasibility of providing service.

WEB MASTER REPORT:

Broken links on the website continue to be a problem and time intensive to repair. The website is up and running and all fees have been paid. It is a huge task working on the HOF archives. Help is needed with bios for past HOF members.

Rietz suggested that the Board begin looking for his replacement due to a significant change in personal time and commitments. He did agree to continue working on the Newsletter even after replacement.

PUBLIC RELATION'S DIRECTOR REPORT:

Tilton stated that to get the word out, it would be helpful to know who the guest band will be 6 months in advance or at a minimum 2 months. Publicizing bands in advance on social media will be helpful in enhancing our dance attendance. When it comes to the HOF festival band schedule – 90 days in advance would be a minimum.

Meeting the desires of our diverse dance membership was discussed. Attempting to “please all the people all of the time” is becoming somewhat difficult. More discussion is planned in future meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elkan described a meeting that he, Shelley Elkan and President Barnes had with Rancho Cordova Mayor, Garrett Gatewood. He also distributed pages of November's Newsletter that was germane to the meeting. He then turned the presentation over to McCoy – Community Outreach.

McCoy described four issues for Board consideration.

1. It is extremely important as we move forward to establish a relationship with Mayor Gatewood. Elkan will follow up in the next 3 weeks (timeline set by the Mayor) indicating our interest and progress.

Continued on page 6



DANCE AT MACHINIST HALL DECEMBER 5, 2021

Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars



"I'm Going"

Free Cruise T-Shirt

Bobby Flores

& The Yellow Rose Band

4U Inside - \$891
2N Outside - \$1071
4D Balcony - \$1440

All rates based on Double Occupancy

Western Swing Cruise To Alaska

Quantum of the Seas

7 Days - Sailing August 15, 2022 From Seattle, WA

Call For Additional Pricing
Bob: (432) 638-3707

P
O
R
T
S

Sitka Juneau
Skagway Victoria, B.C.

The band will play 3 private parties for our group. Booking through any source other than the agency listed will exclude you from these parties. Fees include band fee, security fees and taxes. Travel agency reserves the right to charge a cancellation fee of up to \$100 per cabin. Fuel surcharges of up to \$10 per day per person may be charged by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

Bobby Flores' Alaska Cruise 2022, Mon August 15-Mon August 22, 2022
- From Seattle, WA - 4 Ports of Call: Sitka, Juneau, Skagway and Victoria, BC - Call today to book your cabin!
Bob Landreth (432) 638-3707;
rlandreth638@gmail.com

Raffle Winners

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

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jYB86EMWRccAK7Aw7>



UPCOMING BANDS

December 5 2021	Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars
January 2, 2022	Bite the Bullet
February 6	Gary Blodgett and Friends
March 6	Lincoln Highway
April 3	Bob Woods with Bob Wills Tribute
May 1	Linda Baughman and Friends

FOOD AVAILABLE

We're sad to say that December is the last time these great folks will be providing our hot meals. Please make sure you stop by to say, "Thanks, American Legion Post #9!"

All credit card transactions will have a \$.50 surcharge added.



Minutes continued from page 4

2. Our Sunday dance on November 7, 2021 will be a drop-off site for donations to the Cordova Toy Drive. Onsite boxes will be available for donations. Information of the Toy Drive will be published in the Newsletter. The Rancho Cordova Police Athletic League (PAL) sponsors July 4th and Christmas parades. There could be an opportunity for WSS to have a float with a live band.

3. Rancho Cordova has a Youth Leadership and Adventure Club where members volunteer their services to local organizations and businesses. Perhaps volunteering to assist WSS would be a possibility.

4. Measure H. Rancho Cordova has grant monies available through this bond measure. McCoy was appointed by President Barnes to Chair a Sub-committee to complete and submit a grant proposal to further interest in Western Swing music. Suggestions of the type of activity to be included in the grant proposal were music programs for kids, dancing, veterans outreach, lessons, demonstrations and history of Western Swing. Tilton suggested that there might be a possibility to partner with Ballroom of Sacramento now located in Rancho Cordova. Deadline for grant proposals will be announced by the city in early 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

Moved Elkan, Second Tilton, Approved 8-0 that WSS provide 2-cakes (Costco) for birthday celebrations at the November and December dances as well as asking Guest Band leaders to read a script announcing the birthdays and cake. Further discussion is planned to determine whether to make this policy permanent for 2022.

Moved Rietz, Second Swanson, Approved 8-0 to increase Sunday dance entrance fees from \$5 to \$7 for members and \$8 to \$10 for guests. Effective November 7, 2021.

President Barnes appointed Weiss to chair a Sub-

Continued next column



Christmas in Cordova



Guess What! We get another opportunity to host the toy drive community drop off location for Christmas in Cordova at our December Dance!



AND Rancho Cordova's **Police Activities League (PAL)** is offering up their beautiful Christmas backdrop and a certified Santa so bring your family and get a free family portrait for your Christmas cards this year!!



We are very proud to be partnering with the Rancho Cordova's **Police Activities League (PAL)** to use our

December monthly dance at the Machinists Hall as a community drop off location for unwrapped gifts for children 0 to 17. (Cash or checks can be donated for PAL to shop with as well. Checks should be made payable to "Rancho Cordova PAL")

Check out what PAL does during [Christmas in Cordova](#).



Many Thanks to our new Board Member, Mae McCoy, Community Outreach Coordinator, for bringing our organization all these opportunities to let the community know that the Western Swing Society is the place to be the first Sunday afternoon of each month!

Minutes continued

committee to revise the WSS bylaws. Currently there is an effort to locate a copy of the most recent Bylaws. At present only a 2013 edition has been located. Another issue is to locate or recreate Board members three year elections terms. A progress report to be presented at the next meeting.

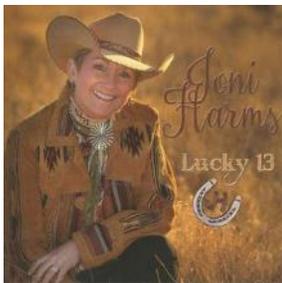
ADJOURNMENT:

Moved Weiss, Second McCarley, Approved 8-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted, *Doug Weiss, Secretary*

Joni Harms continued from page 3

Joni Harms' musical journey continues around the globe with the release of her 13th studio album, Lucky 13, which is receiving amazing reviews. Country Music People Magazine says... "these are some of the very best country songs of recent years and prove that Joni Harms is one of country music's most underrated writers."



There is no mistaking the fact that Joni was a Merle Haggard fan as she even wrote a tribute to him on her latest album, Lucky 13, simply titled Merle. Joni Harms has built a career on two-stepping, toe-tapping shuffles and swing songs on her CDs. Joni loves to write about rodeo, cowboys and the ranch way of living, but says her favorite kind of songs to write are ballads or story songs. That's why Merle is one of her favorites. "I absolutely love it when someone tells me that a song of mine has touched them or helped them through a tough situation. It makes me all the more certain that I am doing what I was put on this earth to do," shares Harms.

Joni's signature cowboy hat and boots are indeed more than a fashion statement. Harms lives on a century farm in Oregon that was homesteaded by her great, great grandfather Harms in 1872. Joni says, "This place has inspired many of my songs and I think they truly represent who I am and what is important to me."

And there is no question who Joni Harms is. She is a tough, hard-working rancher who is also a mom with strong values with a gift for writing and performing music. She admits sometimes it is hard juggling all of these things, but they are important to her and she wouldn't change a thing.

Joni Harms has earned multiple honors from such notable organizations as the Western Music Association and the Academy of Western Artists. She has also performed on



Joni with daughter Olivia Harms

Joni Harms continued

some of the most famous stages, including the Grand Ole Opry and New York City's Carnegie Hall.

Joni Harms continues to tour and do what she loves, saying her journey so far has been absolutely wonderful. God willing she's not going anywhere for a long time and has a lot more songs to write and sing!

Awards:

Western Music Hall of Fame, November, 2020: Joni was inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame in November in New Mexico.

LUCKY 13 (2018) - Named ALBUM OF THE YEAR by the Academy of Western Artists

Continued from page 2

one on drums. Big thank you to this great band!

The "House Band" came up after our raffle. We had a lot of the same players with a few additions. Gary Blodgett pulled double duty again as sound man and bass man. Your editor, Ronnie, came up to play fiddle, Lenny Serdahl Sr. on guitar and we had the Pedal Steel player for The Neon Stars, Jesse Personeni, join us. This young man has it going. It was exciting to watch the young man play off of the legendary Bobby Black. I know for a fact that he was thrilled. The "House Band" also had Bobby Black, Jimmy Baughman, Ralph Chase and Bill Cornett from Janice Allen's band.

It is always great to have some talented people out there to sing with the band. Shelley Elkan, Janis Cole, Nancy Long, Linda Baughman and Bill Cornett hit the stage to sing.

We all know how much our society depends on our volunteers. I try to recognize all of you in name and photos. In this newsletter I'd like to thank the Board of Directors who is tasked with making some tough decisions with our member's interests always in mind. We have a great mix of dancers, listeners and musicians. The board meets at each monthly dance at 10:30 am



Tony Arana, Dave Rietz, Doug Weiss, Jeff Tilton, Ronnie Elkan, Mae McCoy, Linda Swanson, Rex Barnes, Linda McCarley, Mary Harris (Not in the photo)

and also has a meeting during the month when our president, Rex Barnes, thinks that we need one. The membership is always invited.

See Ya down the road, Ronnie Elkan (editor)

TIME TO DANCE

Make sure to see the instructions on how to access them online, page 5



Thank you to Mary Harris, Mae McCoy, and anyone else who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.

BRAND NEW AT THE WESTERN SWING SOCIETY by Edd Burhans



Jacket Front with Fitted Ball Cap



Jacket Back



Western Swing Society
Sacramento, California
CLOTHING PRICES

T- Shirts	
Small - Extra Large	\$15.00
2 XL	\$17.00
Polo Shirts (Men's & Women's)	
Small - Extra Large	\$20.00
2 XL	\$22.00
Onesies	\$12.00
Caps	\$20.00
Jackets	
Small - Extra Large	\$78.00
2 XL	\$82.00
3 XL	\$85.00
4 XL	\$90.00

All Prices Include Sales Tax

Brand New: Womens and Girls V-top Tee. The red in the logo is glitter.

It will sell for \$18 Small thru Extra Large. \$20 for a XXL



Merchandise is available at our monthly dances and at our annual Hall of Fame.

Jackets and Polo shirts can be customized with name for additional cost.



**THANKS FOR ALL THE MUSIC!
JANICE ALLEN & FRIENDS**



**THANKS FOR ALL THE MUSIC!
"HOUSE BAND"**



Thank you to Mary Harris, Mae McCoy and anyone else who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.

JUST A GREAT TIME TO DO SOME VISITING



Thank you to Mary Harris, Mae McCoy and anyone else who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.

OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS

Buck Ford & Pure Country Band: Check Website for schedule, <https://buckford.com/events/>

CA Old Time Fiddlers Association, Meets 2nd Sunday. Orangevale Grange on Walnut Avenue in Orangevale, CA. [www.cbaontheweb.org/region_details.asp?Region 2](http://www.cbaontheweb.org/region_details.asp?Region2)

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

Gary Blodgett, Every Wednesday night at the Valencia Club on the indoor stage from 7:30-10:30. <https://www.facebook.com/gary.blodgett.142>

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/>

Lincoln Highway Band:

Every Tuesday, 1:15-3:45pm. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. \$6 cover at the door.

<https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhighwaybandca/>

Northwest Western Swing Music Society, Contact: Jeannie Yearian, President, 425-432-7888, or cell 206-271-2295, Lynnwood Eagles, 19223 Hwy. 99, Lynnwood, WA. **Meets 2nd Sunday**

www.nwwsms.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.

Board Meeting Invitation

You can attend the Society's monthly Board meetings; first Sunday of each month starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Machinist Hall in Rancho Cordova.



We buy, sell, & trade new & used gear!
-- Free appraisals --
Serving the Western Swing Society for over 45 years!

Elk Grove 2740 Auburn Blvd.,
 (916) 686 - 5666 Sacramento, CA 95821
www.skipsmusic.com (916) 484 - 7575

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

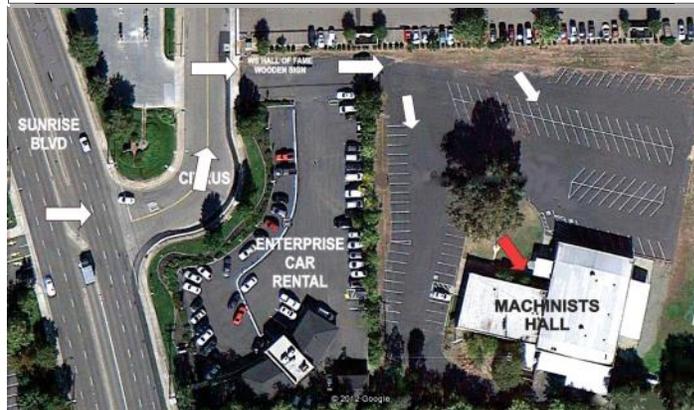
The Western Swing Society holds a music and dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands and artists and jam sets.

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.