

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



BILL GRIFFIN



JERRY JELLY SANDERS

(Go to Page 3)

Letter from The Editor



Wow, what a spectacular dance we had last month. I don't know where to begin so I'll just say I was so happy to be there. We are so proud to have the incredible musicians that volunteer their time and talent to play music for the great dancers that come in. This month we had the Familiar Strangers travel a long way to play music for us.

Continued on page 2

SUNDAY DANCE May 5, 2024

Western Swing Society

Sunday, May 5th 2024

MAE MCCOY AND HER NEON STARS

NEON STAR RECORDS



Album Pre Release Party!

FREE DANCE LESSON

Country Waltz 12:00

LIVE MUSIC

1pm-5pm

Jam Room. Food. Drinks. Dance

\$7 Members

www.maemccoymusic.com

2749 Sunrise Blvd, Rancho Cordova

SUNDAY, May 5, 2024



MAE McCOY & The Neon Stars

1:00pm-3:00pm

Followed by the House band

"The Hall of Famers"

3:00pm-5:00pm

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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

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, Cyndi Lee

Bartender, Cyndi Lee

Decorating Chair, Open

Equipment and Staging, Arron Smith

Historian, (open)

Jam Room, Tony Arana

Master of Ceremonies, Terry Crouson

Membership Director, Linda McCarley

Music Director, Ronnie Elkan

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan

Photographer, Mary Harris

Public Relations Administrator Mae

McCoy

Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall

Slide Show, Janet Jimenez

Sound Engineer, Open

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 ads are due to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month.

Editor's Letter Continued from page 1

They just knocked me out and kept the dance floor full for two hours.

Fronting the band were Hall of Famers Candy Girard on fiddle and vocals and Kevin Russell on guitar and vocals. Hall of Famer Sean Allen on lead guitar; Tim Gahagan on drums; Dave Zirbel on pedal steel guitar; and Matt Davis on bass guitar rounded out the band. They played the music we call Western Swing and did it very well.

The house band, "Hall of Famers" hit the stage right after the raffle. The band was Jimmy Baughman on guitar and vocal; Ralph Chase on keyboard and vocal; Steve French on pedal steel guitar and vocal; Bill Cornett on drums and vocal; Ronnie Elkan on fiddle and Steve Clark on bass guitar and vocal. The band was joined with Rob Shotwell playing guitar and singing and Arron Smith running sound and playing drums. Singing with the band were Janice Allen, Peggy van den Broek, Linda Baughman and Nancy Long.

We had a guest photographer at our dance to join Don deMars, our WSS photographer. She is an incredible professional and I used her photos along with Dons. What a wonderful addition to this newsletter. Thank you Alicia Fox West and if anybody needs a photographer for family photos, events, and weddings I suggest you look up Alicia at *Fox West Photography*.

A few weeks back I met a family at my friends violin shop, Sacramento Violins. I told them about our dances and sure enough they came in. What a joy!



The two oldest are taking fiddle lessons online and the rest of the little ones all dance. I played an Irish tune for them on our break and away

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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!



YOUNG TALENT COMES TO THE JAM ROOM

Free Dance Lessons with admission on Sunday March 3, 2024!



BILL GRIFFIN
 Inducted October 1, 2023



Elky (Bill Griffin) is a veteran musician and multi-instrumentalist with over 50 years of experience. He is widely known in Folk, Bluegrass and Hawaiian music genres. Bill played and toured with Kate Wolf for eleven years, producing

many of Kate's recordings along the way. He has been the mandolinist with the Cache Valley Drifters since 1973 and tours with Hawaiian artist Keale.

Moving back to California from Hawaii in 2013, Bill and Slade were introduced by a mutual friend and discovered they both share a love of Honky Tonk, Classic Country, and of course Western Swing that has had them working together ever since.



Although Bill originally played electric mandolin in the Slade Rivers Band, he and Slade have been working as a duo with Bill on bass since March of 2020.



Slade & Elky, Those Windburn Brothers! Over a century of performing between these two. They entertain with a mix of original songs, an always expanding list of lesser-known classic country tunes they grew up with,

and a friendly vibe that these two very good friends always bring along wherever they go.

Slade & Elky were able to entertain at the Western Swing Society in the past and were a huge hit!

CLASSIC PHOTOS by FOX WEST PHOTOGRAPHY



Jerry "Jelly" Sanders
 Born October 4, 1921
 Inducted October 2, 1988



J.R. Sanders was born in Duncan, Oklahoma on October 4, 1921 to Ross and Margaret "Maggie" Sanders. He acquired the nickname "Ding Dong Jelly Bean" from his sister, Margaret. This was later shortened to "Jelly", a name that he is well known by even today. Margaret gave him

the nickname because of his extra enthusiasm for the family "back porch concerts" which were held whenever the family could get time away from farming their land.

Jelly began playing the fiddle at these back porch concerts at a very early age. He was only six years old when he became a member of the family band.

The Sanders family moved to Porterville, California in 1938. After Jelly married Elva Mae McMasters on November 13, 1940 the couple moved to the Los Angeles area. There Jelly worked as a machinist during the day and played music in night clubs at night. He often performed with such country greats as Jimmy Wakely and Spade Cooley. He also performed with his cousin, Bob Wills, whenever he appeared in the Los Angeles area.

Returning to Porterville in 1945 Jelly continued his musical career in music with his own group, "The Rhythm Rangers". He was the host to such celebrity guests as Frog Millhouse, Maddox Brothers and Rose, T. Texas Tyler, Tex Ritter, Gene Autry, Little Jimmy Dickens and many others.

In 1953, now the proud father of two sons, Jimmy and Jackie, Jelly toured the northwest United States and Canada with Ferlin Husky and Jeannie Shep



BILL • HERB • JOHNNY • FUZZY • JELLY • BONNIE

Continued on page 6

Jerry Jelly Sanders continued from page 3



herd. When he returned from the tour he joined the TV cast of "Cousin Herbs Trading Post." During this same time period he participated in the Los Angeles country western variety show "Star Route" and "Town Hall Party", working with entertainers such as Joe and Rose Lee Maphis and a very young Barbara Mandrell.

After moving to Bakersfield in 1954, Jelly began recording for Columbia and Capitol records, recording with such country stars as Buck Owens, Merle Travis, Joe and Rose Lee Maphis, Wanda Jackson, Tommy Collins, Wanye Stewart, Skeets McDonald, Faron Young and many more.

Jelly was playing many Bakersfield nightclubs at this time. Working the Clover club, The Lucky Spot, The Blackboard, Trouts, and The Barrel House, with such country performers as Johnny Barnett, Fuzzy Owens, Bill Woods, Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, Bonnie Owens and Oscar Whittington.

The "Jelly Sanders Band" was the first country-western band to play the then famous Hacienda Club, where some people said that their type of music would never make it. Jelly and his band performed there for over five years.

In 1962 Jelly went into the trucking business. After a few years he was joined in the business by his son Jimmy.

Upon retiring in 1984, Jelly and Elva moved to Mt. Mesa in Lake Isabella, California where they enjoy their retirement fishing and socializing. Their oldest son Jimmy, his wife Lola and their children live in Bakersfield. Their younger son Jackie, his wife Annie and their daughter live in Oregon.

Jelly continues his love for music by playing private parties. Jelly and his band play annually for the handicapped children of Kern County as well as other public benefits, donating their time and talents. The Jelly Sanders Band has been together for many years. The band members are Jimmy Sanders on bass guitar, Bill Vibe on piano, and Jim Phillips on drums.

The fiddle that belonged to Jelly's great grandfather will not be retired for many more years. It will be handed down to Jelly's nine year old grandson, Jed, a very accomplished young fiddle player. Jed intends to keep the name Sanders alive in country music just as his Grandpa Jelly has been doing for

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



FOOD AVAILABLE

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

Thank you for your service!

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



2024 UPCOMING BANDS

May 5	Mae McCoy & Her Neon Stars
June 2	Bite the Bullet
July 7	Rhonda Rogers & Edgewood Station
August 4	Janice Allen & All The Queen Men
September 1	Natural Country
October 4, 5, 6	Hall of Fame
November 3	Bob Woods Swing
December 1	Mae McCoy & her Neon Stars

WSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 16, 2024

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, Dave Rietz Guest: Nick Dennis

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President, Ronnie Elkan, expressed his gratitude and appreciation that our dances are getting better and better with growing enthusiasm and attendance. Elkan and Dave Rietz thanked Vice President Mae McCoy for her continued advertising and posting on social media – which is contributing to our growth of new memberships and return of our long-standing members.

Our Board member, Linda McCarley, was not feeling well and unable to attend our April 7th dance. Our Treasurer Linda Swanson filled in for Linda McCarley at the front desk. Both Linda Swanson and Ralph Chase acknowledged what a difficult, volunteer position Linda McCarley contributes to our dance events each month. A Special Thank you, Linda McCarley, for all that you do! You are so appreciated!

Ronnie Elkan thanked Dave Rietz for his contribution in the Jam Room and just how important the Jam Room is to the growth of the Western Swing Society. Dave Rietz expressed the importance of being very mindful that everyone in the Jam Room that wants to participate be given the opportunity. Everyone is welcome! Bring your musical instrument and your talented singing voices, as well. Our goal is to promote the Jam Room with an emphasis on improving the sign-in and participation process.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Vice President and Publicity Director, Mae McCoy, expressed how great the Familiar Stranger's band was at our April 7th dance. We also had the advantage of a professional photographer contribute to our pictures for the Newsletter and social media. Mae McCoy gave information about joining the Rancho Cordova Business Association – for future advertising and promotion of our Western Swing Society, as well as our up-coming Hall of Fame. Final details of joining will be discussed at our May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Rietz Moved, Ralph Chase Second – we move the Hall of Fame Awards presentation from Sunday October 6th to Saturday October 5th – keeping our Sunday a traditional Dance with live bands. Approved 6-0.

There is much work and preparation to be done for the upcoming Hall of Fame. President Ronnie Elkan said we will most likely be having another Board Meeting this month. He will let us know.

We were short of Volunteers for last year's Hall of Fame. The Board Members will be reaching out for willing Volunteers. Please contact any Board Member to let us know if you would be willing to give of your time and expertise this year.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved Smith, Second Chase Approved 6-0
Sandy Robinson, Secretary

PRE ORDER NOW




FEAT. EMILY GIMBLE, LISA LAYNE STEWART
JUSTIN TREVINO, JIM LOESSBERG, JESS MEADOR

WWW.MAEMCCOYMUSIC.COM

WOW!
LOOK
WHATS
HAP-
PENING
IN
WEST-
ERN
SWING
MUSIC
THIS
MONTH

STELLAR SHOWS PRESENTS A WESTERN SWING CELEBRATION



BOB WILLS - THAT FIDDLING COWBOY

BIRTHDAY BALL

FOR YOUR DANCING PLEASURE: **DJ SANDY** **BIG SANDY**

DAVE STUCKEY & THE HOOT OWLS

SOUTHWEST BISCUIT CO. SEATED SHOW w/ DANCE FLOOR FULL MENU

STERLING DRAKE ★ **STELLARSHOWS.NET**

CAMPUS JAX SUPPER CLUB 2050 CAMPUS DR. NEWPORT BEACH

SUNDAY APRIL 28 3:30 DOORS 4:30-8 PM SHOW

FREE PARKING 18+

Editors Letter continued from page 2 they went just like “River Dance”. What fun and we need more of it so please tell all your friends about us.



The Board of Directors has been meeting on zoom (the computer) lately and we have been trying to plan our annual Hall of Fame in October. It looks like we will move the award ceremony to Saturday along with bands and dancing. It will be an all day event. We will keep Sunday as a dance and music day. The idea is to keep Sunday kind of like it is only more bands to dance to. We will also keep our lessons going. We are still looking at Friday but we haven't really figured that one out yet. We'd love to have anybody's thought on this issue, thank you! If you can help out in any way at the Hall of Fame please contact us, we really need volunteers to help out, Thanks again.

For those of you that need a break from dancing, the Jamroom Band is in the back swinging away. Let them know that you want to do a couple of songs. It's been really busy back there so please sign up and do two songs. If you want to do more just sign up again. The band back there is always made up of top talent and it is the highlight of the day to go back there and listen.

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 [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 March Dance
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VdQ9XHrT6cgup4X46>

RAFFLE WINNERS (Photo's By Don deMars)



THANKS FOR THE MUSIC (Photo's By Don deMars & Fox West Photography)



[DANCING IT UP!!! \(Photo's By Don deMars\) See all The Photos Page 6](#)



TIME TO SWING (Photo's by Fox West Photography) See all The Photos Page 6



THANKS FOR THE MUSIC (Photo's By Don deMars & Fox West Photography)





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/>

Mae McCoy and Her Neon Stars
Contact: www.maemccoymusic.com
<https://youtube.com/@maemccoyandherneonstars>

Micheal Ray Strauch & The Fortunate Few
Contact Facebook for dates and places
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%202027%20outlaws>

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.

NEW!!! FREE DANCE LESSONS

With Admission @ 12:00 pm



Swingers of the Month



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.