



MUSIC NEWS

Published by the Western Swing Society, Sacramento, California
Founded in 1981 by Loyd and Perry Jones

Volume 44 Number 2

DON'T MISS THE GREAT MUSIC THIS DANCE

February 2026

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



LAWTON JILES



KEN JACOBS

(Go to Page 3)

SUNDAY, February 1, 2026



COME AND
HEAR THE
GREAT BAND
THAT HIDES
IN THE
BACK ROOM



THE JAMROOM BAND

1:00pm-3:00pm

Followed by the House band

"The Hall of Famers"

3:00pm-5:00pm

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THANK YOU
YOU VOLUNTEERS

CHECK OUT PHOTOS On
Page 4

Letter from The Editor



Sunday morning on my way to the dance the rain was really coming down. I thought to myself that it was going to be a very slow day with folks not wanting to come out to a dance in a blinding storm. Our parking lot was a lake, hahahaha, and that didn't stop our folks from coming out to enjoy dancing and visiting with friends. I knew that Bob Woods and his band along with the Hall of Fame band would want to play music even if there was nobody to play for but it was a packed house and I'm sure the musicians were happy to play to a house full of dancers. My thanks goes out to all the folks that made it a great dance.

Bob Woods had such a great time that he asked to come back in August. He doesn't have to ask twice. They just did such a great job and they are so generous to us at WSS. Bob Woods played lead guitar and vocals; Olen Dillingham played 5-string mandolin, fiddle and vocals; Brent Cole played stand up bass; Skip Smith played drums; Joe Ybarra on pedal steel; Brad Bar

Continued page 2.

Western Swing Society Presents

Jam Room Band



Sunday, February 1st, 2026

**12pm Dance Lesson
1pm Jam Room Band
3pm Hall of Famers Band**

Admission
\$10
at the
Door

*Jam Room
*50/50 Raffle
*Food & Drinks
Available for purchase

Machinist Hall
2749 Sunrise Blvd Rancho Cordova, CA

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY MUSIC NEWS

PO Box 2474
Carmichael, CA 95609
westernswingociety.net
Facebook: SacramentoWesternSwingSociety

Founded in 1981 by Loyd and Perry Jones to enable performance, preservation and perpetuation of the unique American art form known as Western Swing Music.

Officers:

President, Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345
Vice Pres, Open
Treasurer, Linda Swanson
Secretary, Sandra Robinson
Social Media, Sandra Robinson
Social Media Specialist , Alicia West Fox
Other Directors:
Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463
Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520
Alicia West
Chuck Webb
Arron Smith
Ralph Chase

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: Alicia 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

Editors Letter continued from page 1



nett played keyboard and vocal; Gary Campbell played guitar and vocal. What a great band!

As usual the Hall of Famers played the 3:00-5:00 slot after the raffle. By the way the raffle is a huge hit and helps the WSS fund the dance and scholarship program. The raffle is hosted by Bob an The band d Virginia Kuykendall with the help of Nancy Long and who ever else pitches in to tear tickets. They are valued volunteers. The band was Jimmy Baughman on guitar and vocals; Olen Dillingham played 5-string mandolin, fiddle; Ronnie on fiddle; Ralph Chase on piano and vocals; Bill Corbett on drums and vocals; Steve Clark on bass guitar and vocals; Briam McCommas on guitar and vocal; and Arron Smith on drums and vocals. Thank you John Bush with Harmonica. No rain was going to stop these guys. Arron is our guy that runs sound with the help of Brian McCommas that has learned the system. Guest singers were Michael Ray, Janice Allen, Linda Baughman, Rhonda Lynn and Nancy Long.

Our great relationship with the Machinist Hall is all about Ralph Chase and Alicia Fox. We partner with them for the food drive and the Christmas gift drive. Both were a big success for our folks. It's been great to have this hall as our home for WSS.

I'm looking forward to another great dance on Sunday. Thank you volunteers. I'll see you at the dance

Ronnie Elkan (Editor)



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Western Swing Society

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

Submitted articles, publicity notices and letters not relating directly to the Society or its members may be published at the discretion of the Editor, as space permits. The staff reserves the right to edit any and all items submitted for publication.

Deadline for Submittals:

All items, photographs, articles, and ad's are due to the Editor no later than the 10th of the month.

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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!

COME IN AND JAM

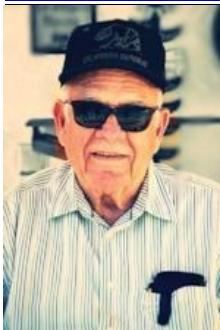


**FREE DANCE
LESSONS
With Admission @ 12:00 pm**

LAWTON JILES

BORN DECEMBER 16, 1929 DIED JUNE 20, 2020

Inducted October 3, 2013



Lawton Jiles was born on December 16, 1929 in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. In 1943 his family moved to California, first settling in Fresno, then relocating to Delano.

From his parents Lawton learned the basic chords on a guitar, and at age 9 began playing music along with his brother, Johnny, who was two years younger.

While in High School they formed a band called "The Valley Rhythm Boys" and began playing club dates. Lawton on steel guitar and fiddle, Johnny on lead guitar. The band included a drummer and a rhythm guitarist who was also the vocalist.

In 1951 Lawton joined the United States Air Force serving 3 years. Brother Johnny kept the band going until Lawton's return.

Following his discharge from the Air Force Lawton began to take his song writing capabilities seriously. In 1956 he recorded 4-songs with Buck Owens on lead guitar, Bill Woods on bass and Johnny "The Texas Drummer Boy" Cuvillo of Bob Wills fame on drums. They began a nightly radio show on KCHJ in Delano, California, 5-nights a week (Both Woods and Cuvillo are in the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame.)

In 1957, Lawton formed a song-writing partnership with his brother-in-law, Charles "Buster" Bean with Buster as co-writer. The two landed a deal with *Four Star Records* and began writing songs for newcomer, Patsy Cline, the biggest hit was "Let The Teardrops Fall." They also wrote for Porter Wagoner, Norma Jean, Rusty Draper, T. Texas Tyler, Janie Frickie and others. (Rusty Draper is also in the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame.)

In 1960, Lawton signed with King Records, releasing an album. He soon joined KUZZ radio, owned by Buck Owens, as a disc jockey.

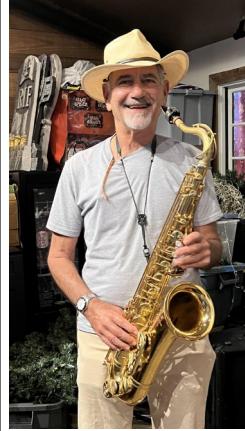
In 1961, Lawton joined Buck Owens' band as its

Continued adjoining column



KEN "SNAKEBITE" JACOBS

Inducted October 5, 2025



Ken "Snakebite" Jacobs is a Houston Tx native now living in the Bay Area. He's played or recorded with many performers including :

- The Temptations
- O'Jays
- Levon Helm
- Tommy Thomsen
- Lone Star Retrobates
- The Band
- Rusty Kershaw
- Dan Hicks

Maria Muldaur
And many others.

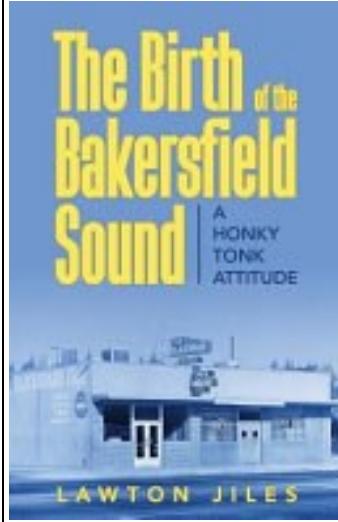
In 2020 he won an Emmy with the New Orleans Nightcrawlers

Jacobs studied at Berklee School of Music and privately with John Handy

Lawton Jiles continued

leader, and the Bakersfield Sound was beginning to be defined. Following 2 years with Owens, Lawton returned to his business world and continued writing music. In late 1980 he built his own recording studio in Upland, California and in the early 1990's became sole owner of *Beam Records*, recording and producing other artists.

In May 1993 the Patsy Cline collection containing six songs written by Lawton and his brother-in-law, Buster, went Gold and in August 1998 the album went Platinum.



At 81 years of age, although having had numerous surgeries and not in the best of health, Lawton continues to sit in with *Tommy Hays and His Western Swingsters*, with Jimmy Phillips on drums and vocals. Both Tommy and Jimmy were inducted into the Sacramento Western Swing Society Hall of Fame in 2010.

Lawton and his wife, Ruth, reside in Upland, in

Southern California.

Update: Lawton passed away June 20, 2020.



Western Swing Society Jam Room

All skill levels welcome!

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://westernswingociety.net/>. OR on  Google Photos

Tips:

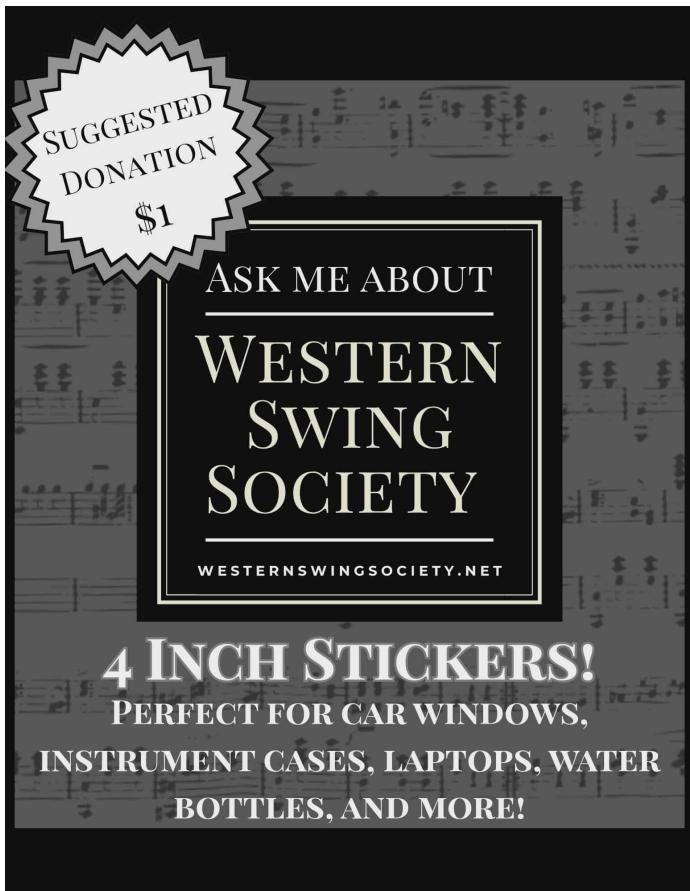
- From PDF newsletter, click on link below these instructions to enter that photo album.
- Use the three dots  at top right to download entire     album or a selected photo
- To see all albums, click top left on  Google Photos
- Once back at the home page, click on Albums  Albums
- To find all photos 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/qNFxH7cCtInr3pnB9>



SUGGESTED
DONATION
\$1

ASK ME ABOUT
**WESTERN
SWING
SOCIETY**

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY.NET

4 INCH STICKERS!
PERFECT FOR CAR WINDOWS,
INSTRUMENT CASES, LAPTOPS, WATER
BOTTLES, AND MORE!



Let's Eat!

PLACE YOUR ORDER AT THE BACK COUNTER

 Western Swing Society

Cafe 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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING

 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Cobb Salad Pulled Pork Cheeseburger Hot Dog

Food provided by The Auxiliary
ALA Unit 233 Elk Grove

BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 16,2026

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

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

Guest: NickDennis

PRESIDENTS REPORT: President Ronnie Elkan expressed what a great success our January Dance was. Even as the rain came down and the parking lot became a lake – our dance hall was full!! Bob Wood& Band was so enjoyed by all and they will be back in August. The Jam Room Band will be on the Front Stage for our February Dance. Our Jam Room has been such a hit each month – and the Jam Room will remain open and jumping for all to enjoy, even as the Jam Room Band takes the Main Stage.

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer Linda Bentley reported that our December Dance was very successful. Our Liability Insurance is being increased by \$550 annually To offset this increase we will be working diligently to empty our off-site storage unit – which will make up for this increase.

WEBSITE MANAGER: Dave Rietz reported that the Website has been updated with the December pictures and Newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS: We welcomed our New Board Member, Alicia Fox-West who has been such an asset to our Western Swing Society with her talented Photography skills. Alicia is also bringing to us her talent with A.I. Generated Online Fliers on Facebook. She has also been posting our Monthly Fliers in free locations such as the Sacramento Bee Events and local Dance

Community Forums. The Board believes this has contributed to our always-increasing attendance.

With Special Thanks to our Guest Board Member, Nick Dennis, we have a new Western Swing Society Logo for having shirts and jackets made. We are looking for a vendor that can take orders for the shirts and jackets as they come in – eliminating our Western Swing Society the necessity to invest in a large inventory of different sizes.

We are so grateful for the incredible working-relationship we have with the Machinists Hall. The Board acknowledges the professional, executive skills of our Board Member Ralph Chase, as he is always working closely with the Machinists Hall, to keep everything running smoothly.

ADJOURNMENT: Sandy Robinson moved to adjourn, Linda Bentley seconded, Approved 7-0
Sandy Robinson, Secretary

RAFFLE WINNERS (Photo's By Alicia Fox)



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

**\$10
AT THE
DOOR
INCLUDES DANCE
LESSON**

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY PRESENTS



**SUNDAY
MARCH
1ST 2026**

12 PM DANCE LESSON
1 PM THE
BAUGHMANS &
FRIENDS
3PM HALL OF
FAMERS BAND

The
**BAUGHMANS
& FRIENDS**

FOOD AND DRINK
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE

WELCOMING
JAM ROOM OPEN
ALL AFTERNOON

FREE
DANCE LESSONS
50/50 RAFFLE

AT THE DANCE!!! (Photo's By Alicia Fox) See all The Photos Page 4

AT THE DANCE!!! (Photo's By Alicia Fox) See all The Photos Page 4



VISITING AT THE DANCE!!! (Photo's By Alicia Fox) See all The Photos Page 4

OTHER WESTERN SWING MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS/MUSIC HAPPENINGS

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

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

Cowtown Society of Western Music, Contact: Joe Baker, Membership Director, 940-452-6300, 4361 F.M. 1195, Mineral Springs, TX 76067

Grace Clark and Swingitude:

www.graceaclarkmusic.com. 925-443-5217

Greater Arizona Country/Western Swing Association and Hall of Fame, Inc. PO Box 953, Dewey, AZ 86326. Contact Jim Gamble at 928-458-0714.

Hot Club of Cowtown: <https://hotclubofcowtown.com/>

The Lincoln Highway Trio:

Every Tuesday, 1:15-3:45pm. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. \$8 cover at the door. <https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhighwaybandca/>

Cowtown Birthplace of Western Swing

<https://www.birthplaceofwesternswing.com/>

Sactown Playboys @ <https://www.facebook.com/sactownpbs/>

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

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

Cliff Huey 27 Outlaws Band @

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=cliff%20huey%202027%20outlaws>

Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station Contact: Rhonda Rogers 916-240-8736 email: info@rhondalynn.com website: www.rhondalynn.com facebook.com/rhondalynn66

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF WESTERN SWING MUSIC, HERE IS WHERE TO GO!

<https://www.westernswing.com/Events.html>

Board Meeting Invitation

You can attend the Society's monthly Board meetings; Please contact any board member if you would like to attend on Google Meet or if you have a suggestion.

FREE DANCE LESSONS With Admission @ 12:00 pm

2026 UPCOMING BANDS

February 1	Jamroom Band
March 1	The Baughmans
April 5	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
May 3	Don Burnham & The Bolos
June 7	Let The Horses Run
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@westernswingociety.net

Thanks! Keep on Western Swingin'

MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS

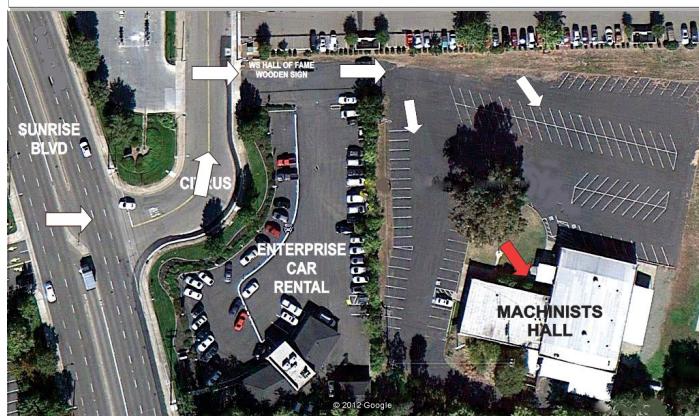
The Western Swing Society holds a music and dance session on the first Sunday of each month, featuring guest bands and artists and jam sets.

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.westernswingociety.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.