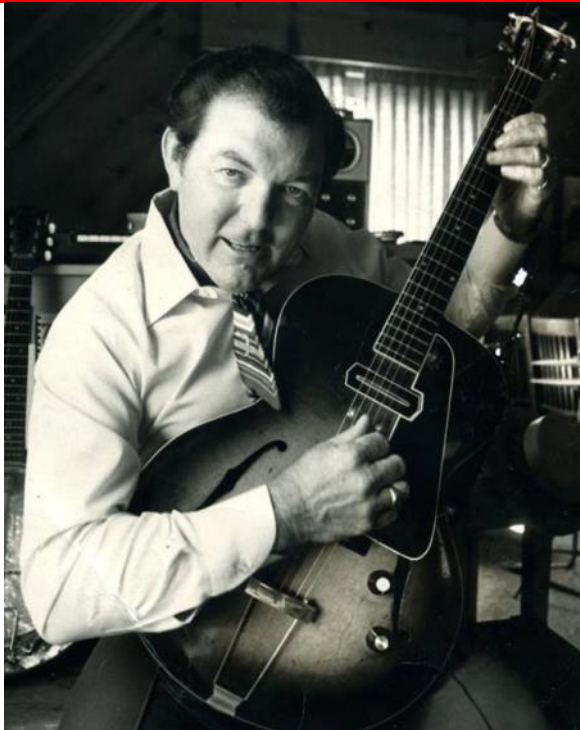


**News Flash!** **GOOD NEWS, We will have an unscheduled dance April 18, 2021 at the Valencia Club in Penryn, 1-5 with Bite the Bullet**



**CHARLIE STRAIGHT**

*Inducted Oct. 5, 1986*



**DICK FLOYD**

*Inducted Oct. 5, 1986*

*Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 3*

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**OPEN POSITION on the BOARD**  
Please help us fill this position!

**Membership Dues to Re-sume! The WSS board had a meeting and felt that we need to start our membership drive up. A lot of folks have already paid their dues and will be receiving their cards soon, Thank You!**



**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, Jimmy Boehnke (530) 886-8375  
 Treasurer, Linda Swanson  
 Secretary, Cheryl Dearborn

**Other Directors:**

Tony Arana (775) 971-3070  
 Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345  
 Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463  
 Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520  
 Jeff Tilton (916) 798-9377

**Staff and Committee Chairpersons:**

Admissions Coordinator, Linda McCarley  
 Bar Manager, Jimmy Boehnke  
 Bartender, Cyndi Lee  
 Decorating Chair, Rex Barnes  
 Equipment and Staging, Gary Blodgett  
 Historian, (open)  
 Jam Room, Tony Arana  
 Master of Ceremonies, Jimmy Boehnke  
 Membership Director, (open)  
 Music Director, Ronnie Elkan  
 Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Elkan  
 Photographer, Donald deMars  
 Public Relations Administrator, Jeff Tilton  
 Raffle, Bob and Virginia Kuykendall  
 Slide Show, (open)  
 Sound Engineer, Gary Blodgett  
 Website, Dave Rietz

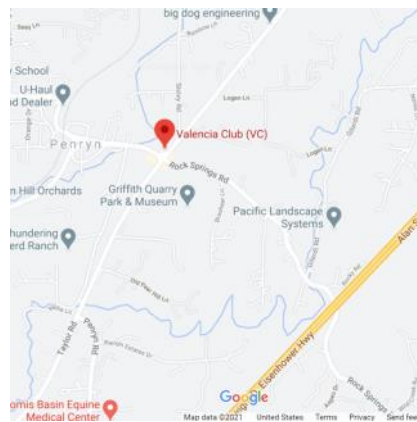
**EDITOR'S LETTER**

Hey Folks

Things are starting to move along a little. By now a lot of us have had a vaccine. I think that is going to help us feel more comfortable getting out for a dance. The board under President Rex Barnes is doing everything we can to be creative until the Machinist's Hall allows us to have a "home" again. Until then we are going to try the "Wandering" method.

I want to be very clear, **THERE WILL NOT BE A DANCE AT THE MACHINIST'S HALL THIS SUNDAY APRIL 4, 2021.** But we plan to have a free dance at the Valencia Club in Penryn on April 18, 2021 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. We will see how this works out. We will have a band, Bite the Bullet and we will also have a stage for the jammers to entertain. As you will read in Rex's email and the notes from our online meeting we have a few options of places to play but none of them are set in stone or offer us a permanent home.

I will attach some pictures so you get an idea of the outside stage. We strongly suggest that you bring a pad or a camp chair with you. We will be making music and having



a great time. There is food and drinks for sale at the Valencia.

The Valencia Club is at 2162 Taylor Rd., Penryn CA 95663. It really isn't hard to find at all. It is the Penryn Exit off of Highway 80. Their web page is <http://www.valencia-club.com/>.

*Continued page 4*

**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.

**APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION**

Submit the following information in a note with your check to:  
**The Western Swing Society, P.O. Box 2474, Carmichael, CA 95609:**

Name(s), mailing address, email address, and telephone number.

Fees (make check payable to Western Swing Society)

Individual Membership, \$15 per year.

Couples Membership, \$20 per year. (one address only).

Dues renew every July.

If you join during any other month, your membership fee will be prorated to align with the July renewal.

You will receive a color version of our newsletter via email. Paid membership also includes reduced admission fee at Society music functions, and the right to vote in Society elections and on proposed By-Law changes.

**CHARLIE STRAIGHT**

Inducted October 5, 1986

Born April 18, 1915 – Died April 7, 1997

Charlie Straight started his musical career at the age of 11 years old in his hometown of Okmulgee, Oklahoma. His next door neighbor, Joe Woods, gave Charlie a guitar that was all busted at the seams and Charlie wanted to play so badly that he glued it all together and, by the age of 13, he was working with Bud Fuller and the Saddle Pals. At the age of 14, Charlie and the Saddle Pals had a radio show for Doc Gaines Butane Co. on a local radio station—the call letters escape his memory. He continued to play at local parties and picnics and radio shows until age 15 when his Dad “Asa” bought him a new Custom Craft guitar for \$22 (electric, of course) and Charlie had an amplifier made out of an old radio. He sold his old guitar that he had repaired over and over for the giant sum of \$2.00 with which he bought a new set of Black Diamond strings for \$1.25. He still uses the same good string today (the price slightly inflated).

By this time Charlie Straight had been exposed to several types and styles of music. Some of his favorites were: Bob Wills, Benny Goodman, and Spade Cooley. Charlie worked with most of the “Texas Playboys”, including Tommy Duncan, Luke Wills, Joe Andrews, Glen Duncan, Billie Carter, Truitt Cunningham, Billie Briggs, and several others. All these bands had good guitar players such as Eldon Shamblin, Junior Bernard, Charlie Christian, Jimmy Wyble. From these players and his own creativeness he developed his unique style of playing Western Swing music with a Jazz Blues flavor. At the age of 16, Charlie was working with the Oklahoma State College “Stardusters”, a Dixieland society band playing all the old standards and, of course, some country and western music as is required if you live in Oklahoma.

At age 17, he enlisted in the service so he could get the GI Bill of Rights and attend college. He was like everyone else, shipped immediately overseas. Then he was assigned to special services and worked in a 17 piece orchestra attached to the service with country and western players at the NCO and Officers Clubs. Charlie returned home at the age of 19 and completed his high school education at Preston, Oklahoma, where he met Sid Turner

*Continued on Page 5***DICK FLOYD**

Inducted October 6, 2019

Born February 3, 1931-Died August 12, 2011



Dick Floyd, the cigar-chomping, trash-talking Democrat who represented a portion of the South Bay for nearly two decades and authored legislation that led to California’s landmark motorcycle law, has died. He was 80.

Floyd died Thursday at his home in Sacramento after a battle with diabetes. A nephew, Brian Floyd, confirmed his death.

“He had his adversaries, like we all do in life, but he loved people,” said Brian Floyd, a Republican political consultant who works in Sacramento. “You never had to doubt where he stood or what he stood for. He enjoyed being a legislator and crafting laws.”

Richard E. “Dick” Floyd was born Feb. 3, 1931, in Philadelphia to Herbert and Viola Floyd, the third of six children. Shortly after his birth, the Floyd family moved to Long Beach, where his father recovered at a naval hospital from critical injuries suffered in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

The Floyd family eventually settled in a home on Prairie Avenue in what is now Lawndale. Floyd attended Leuzinger High School before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served in combat during the Korean War, and earned a Purple Heart after suffering a gunshot wound through his left shoulder. To regain dexterity in his shoulder, he spent much of his free time building model airplanes with his brothers.

Floyd first became interested in politics after visiting the Torrance Democratic Woman’s Club, and served on the staff of late South Bay Sen. Ralph Dills from 1966 to 1980. Floyd was first elected to the state Assembly to represent the 53rd District in 1980.

He represented the 55th Assembly district from 1996 to 2000. During his time in Sacramento, Floyd represented Lawndale, Hawthorne, Gardena, Watts and portions of Compton and Long Beach. During his years in the Assembly, he was known as a champion of gamblers, the liquor industry and organized labor.

He also aggressively advocated for war veterans, writing legislation that led to the creation of the Southern California Veterans Home for homeless

*Continued on page 4*



**MINUTES FROM ONLINE MEETING  
3/28/2021**

**In attendance:** Dave Rietz, Jeff Tilton, Jimmy Boehnke, Rex Barnes, Ronnie Elkan, and Gary Blodgett

**Absent:** Cheryl Dear born, Linda McCarley, Tony Arana

**Meeting called to order.**

**First Discussion Topic:**

3 potential locations available to consider for possible dance and jam April 18th, 1 to 5 pm

1. Naggiar Winery - 17 miles north of Auburn.  
Outdoor space, no insurance required, food and beverage available for purchase if adequate attendance. \$5 per member charge.
2. Eagles on Fruitridge - \$275 rental fee for 4 hours, \$150 for bar, \$300 for insurance. No food. Break even cost would require \$15 per person door charge.
3. Valencia Club - Taylor Road. Free, Dance would be outside patio area, cement dance floor, partial shade, benches? Estimated to hold 100 to 150. Inside is also available for jam band.

Ronnie Elkan motioned for Valencia Club. Dave Rietz seconded the motion.

Dance will be held Sunday, April 18, 2021, 1 to 5 pm. No charge at door. Food and beverage for purchase from Valencia Club.

**Actions:**

**Equipment transfer from Machinist's Hall to Valencia**

1. Gary, Dave and Rex to meet at Machinist's Hall on Saturday, April 17th to gather the WSS banner, tablecloths, drum kit for jam band, mic stands, etc. Our keys still work for access to our equipment storage.

**Outside Patio - Main Dance**

*Continued on page 5*

**PRESIDENT REX BARNES EMAIL**



*Rex Barnes*

Well it seems that things are opening up at least a little for now. Lincoln Highway is performing at Kims Country Kitchen in Lincoln. Gary Blodgett is at the Valencia Club and there are dances every Friday at the Eagles Club with some great bands.

So it seems everybody has something going on but Western Swing! I have been in touch with the Machinist Hall and they are having a board of directors meeting this Wednesday 24th. They have assured me that they will have some information for me soon as to when we can open up.

But in the meantime I have met with the manager of the Naggiar Winery in Grass Valley and have set up a temporary agreement for a possible future dance, providing this meets with the approval of the board.

I will be setting up a zoom meeting with everybody next Sunday at 5pm to discuss an upcoming dance, possible dances at the Machinist or any other location we can use.

So please let me know if you have any topics that we can cover at the meeting and suggestions where we can start having physical meetings.

Best regards, Rex



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact President, Rex Barnes (916-704-1566)

Needs/Skills:

- Word processing
- Photo editing
- Set up and tear down assistance

**WE HAVE A BOARD POSITION OPEN!**

We will be looking for a new secretary if you have the time and the experience.

**Sunday, April 4, 2021**

**APRIL DANCE AT MACHINIST HALL CANCELED**  
BUT JOIN US AT THE VALENCIA CLUB, APRIL 18TH, 1 TO 5 PM INSTEAD



*Charlie Straight continued from page 3*

(Piano player and life time friend). Charlie worked with Willard Franke’s Western Band in Okmulgee while working on his high school diploma. He visited his sister, Mourene, in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, where he met another life time friend, Dick Stubbs. Then Charlie, Sid, and Dick moved to Odessa, Texas, and played anywhere there was a job available. Then Charlie and Dick moved to Albuquerque, N.M and on to Santa Fe, N.M., and then to Dallas, Texas, where Charlie met two more lifetime friends, Leon Rhodes (guitar player extraordinaire) and Johnny Lytle (Charlie’s favorite fiddle player).

Charlie made Dallas, Texas, his home base and it was there he worked with Marvin Montgomery and the famous Texas band, “the Lightcrust Dough-boys”. He also worked with Jim and Bill Boyd, Georgia Slim, and Tex Ritter. Charlie and Johnnie Gimble worked together in Dallas with the “Aunt Jemimah Bandwagon”. During that same period of time, Charlie worked as a staff band member of the “Big ‘D’ Jamboree” show along with his buddies, Leon Rhodes, George McCoy, and Tex Raye. Almost all of the big country stars including “Elvis” appeared at one time or another on the Big ‘D’ supported by Charlie and all of the Big ‘D’ regulars. There were a couple of bands Charlie Straight enjoyed working with from Oklahoma: Merl Lindsay and “The Oklahoma Night Riders”, a real swinging 10 piece western band featuring Jimmy Young (fiddle) from Amarillo, Texas, and Roddy Bristol (concert violinist and trombone), Also, Leon McAuliffe and the Cimmaron Boys with the great Sol Gamboa (drums). Charlie and Leon’s band toured through Canada with Grandpa Jones, Porter Waggoner, and the Grand Ole Opry Show.

Charlie moved from Dallas back to Oklahoma for a short time working with the “Al Good Orchestra” in Oklahoma City and then toward California (Charlie was also in the horse business) where he met another lifetime Christian friend, Bob Kelly (Indiana Hoosier) and band leader Harold Hensley, the west coast superman of the fiddle. While living in California, Charlie was most pleased to work with Truitt Cunningham (vocalist from the Bob Wills band) and

*Continued on page 6*

*Minutes continued from page 4*

1. Rex to clean patio on morning of Sunday, April 18
2. Gary to bring mains for outdoor dance
3. Gary, and Ronnie to assist in set up of PA system for outdoor dance
4. Jeff will put an invitation on Facebook for April 18th dance and jam
5. Ronnie will include dance and jam information in the newsletter, due to go out Monday, March 29th.
6. Ronnie will send a reminder email to the entire newsletter distribution on April 16.

**Jam Band:**

1. Dave to contact core Jam Band members to ensure a good base band
2. Jammers will assist in setting up small PA for jammers. Musicians to bring their own amps

Ronnie requested an update from Rex regarding his discussions with the Machinist's Hall.

Rex stated that while the Machinist's Hall says when they re-open, WSS will have our same space and dates at the existing price. However, due to Sacramento's current Covid-19 restriction tier, Machinist's Hall will remain closed.

Meeting concluded.

*Dick Floyd continued from page 3*

veterans and the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the state Capitol in Sacramento.



“Our family was a very blue-collar family,” Brian Floyd said. “He always looked out for people that government was going to neglect and roll over. He always stood up for the little guy.”

*This Bio was written and submitted in 1986, Ronnie*



*Charlie Straight continued next column*

Noel Boggs, one of the all time great steele guitar players from the Spade Cooley band, and also Tiny Moore, the legend of the hot Mandolin players.

Charlie considered himself very fortunate to have had the pleasure of working at Disneyland with the famous "Banjo Kings" headed up by the notorious "Little Red" (Jimmy Blount) of Las Vegas, Nevada, formerly with Louis Prima and Keely Smith.

Disneyland auditioned 55 banjo players for that job and Charlie was picked first and then helped to select the other two banjo players, Bernie Smith from Louisville, Kentucky and Pat Terry from Boston, Mass, to complete the group. It was at Disneyland where Charlie met another lifetime friend, Smiley Wilson, Fiddle and trombone. During all of these happenings, Charlie and his family maintained a "Horse trading business". All of his children are: Red (Lead and bass guitars) won the Wrangler Country Showdown in Las Vegas and California, Cheryl (Guitar, Banjo, and singer), Davy (bass guitar and singer), Valerie (piano and multiple PRCA Rodeo Queen). All of the family are expert horse trainers and equine specialists in the art of trading horses, this includes his wife, Jan Straight. Jan also plays the violin and studies music with Harold Hensley, she deeply admires his versatile playing. Charlie has his own Family Band since all of the kids are musically talented. Sometimes they played on the stage with him. The Straight Family played together in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Caesar's Palace where they were billed as "The Texas-Oklahoma-Prune pickers".

From sunny California, Charlie and Jan Straight decided to move to the entertainment capital of the world, Los Vegas.

During Charlie's musical career, he learned to play several instruments: Guitar, Steel guitar, Banjo, bass, fiddle, and Trombone as well as being a good vocalist and MC. His first chords were learned from his mother, Mазzie Straight. Evelyn, Mrs Oral Roberts, taught him music theory. Being "multitalented" as he is sometimes called, Charlie Straight, according to Mark Tully, President of the Las Vegas Musicians Union, has worked more music jobs, casuals, club dates, parties, conventions, political rallies, than any other musician in the Las

*Charlie Straight continued*

Vegas area.

Before and after moving to Las Vegas, Charlie worked with Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Mr Magoo, Tony Curtiss, Jane Russell, Lola Falana, Danny Thomas, The Royal Dixie Jazz Band, and many other Las Vegas Stars. He also had the Charlie Straight Orchestra Service in Las Vegas which hires a variety of musicians for a wide field of entertainment.

Charlie says thanks to all of his family, his father Asa, Mother Mазzie, Brothers Ace and Kenneth, sisters Mourene and Nancy all of whom played music and sang a lot of gospel music which Charlie thinks played an important part to his musical talents. He also thanks all of the many friends he met along the way during his musical career and hopes in his small way in this big world he has contributed to someone's happiness.

Willie Nelson said he used to watch Charlie play the guitar in Dallas, Texas and would try to steal all of his "hot licks" but Charlie said he should have been watching to see what Willie was doing and maybe they could both be big stars!

Charlie Straight has set a good example for all of his children. His goal has been music, health, and happiness. Charlie says if you are happy and healthy, you are a "millionaire". He also has a quote from his dad "ASA" Straight, "In God we trust, all others pay cash". Charlie plans to retire on a horse ranch some day, but he will always play music as long as he continues to make folks happy.

Charlie Straight is gone, but his wife Jan and his family will continue to spread this same good will and happiness throughout the world with music.

*This Bio was written and submitted in 1986, Ronnie*



*Continued next column*



**BRAND NEW AT THE WESTERN SWING SOCIETY by Edd Burhans**



Jacket Front with Fitted Ball Cap



Jacket Back



**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**



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.

**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**



**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?Region%202)

**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 & Swingitude:** <http://www.GraceAClarkMusic.com>

**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** <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](http://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](http://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 Machinists 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](http://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](mailto:membership@westernswingsociety.net)  
 Thanks! Keep on Western Swingin'

**MONTHLY MUSIC SESSIONS**

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

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
 2740 Auburn Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA\*

Members; \$8 for Non-Members  
 For more information, browse to [www.westernswingsociety.net](http://www.westernswingsociety.net)  
 \*The address is Sunrise, but the driveway is on Citrus.

**ON HOLD DUE TO COVID-19 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**



**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.