



Hall of Fame Nominees Page 6
Micheal Ray Strauch and The Fortunate Few Swingin' It (Page 4)
Grace Clark has a NEW CD called "Dancin' With Swingitude"



DAVE STOGNER
Inducted Oct. 2, 1988

MARC CAPORONE
Inducted Oct. 2, 2022

Western Swing Society Hall of Fame Profile ~ Page 3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Officials & Staff.....2
 Letter From The Editor.....2
 Jam Room Photos.....2
 HOF Profiles3
 American Legion Menu .4
 See All Photos Online4
 American Legion News..4
 Upcoming Bands.....4
 May Dance Flyer.....4
 Dance Photos.....5
 HOF Nominations6
 Dance Photos.....7
 Band & Drawing Photos 8
 Board Meeting.....9
 Olen W/Hoot Owls.....10
 Swingin' Photos11

Other WSS Orgs 12
 Monthly Music Dances.....12



Swingers of March

GUEST BAND
Sunday, May 7, 2023



Micheal Ray Strauch & The Fortunate Few
1:00 to 3:00pm

Followed by The "House Band"
3:00 to 5:00pm

MAY

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
Treasurer, Linda Swanson
Secretary, Doug Weiss

Other Directors:

Ronnie Elkan (916) 765-4345
Linda McCarley (916) 870-7463
Dave Rietz (916) 806-0520
Jimmy Boehnke
Mae McCoy
Sandy Robinson

Staff and Committee Chairpersons:

Admissions Coord, Linda McCarley
Bar Manager, Cyndi Lee
Bartender, Cyndi Lee
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 Administrator Mae McCoy
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



Hope everyone had a great Easter, we sure did. Our dance on Sunday April 2 was sure a great way to bring in Easter. Our dances are about family and friends celebrated by dancing and music. I'm always so grateful to everyone who makes it's possible.

Our sound engineer, Gary Blodgett has been struggling with some illness. We are all praying and pulling for him. He assured me that he misses WSS as much as we miss him. Arron Smith and Ralph Chase stepped up to help with the sound system and helped put it away. There's always a lot of moving parts to putting on the dance. Thanks Boys.

Our Hall of Fame is getting very close. Please take a minute to read up on it and how to nominate someone who might meet all the requirements. You can read all about it on Page 6. My wife Shelley and I were graciously nominated to the Hall of Fame in the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest. That celebration will be in Lawton, Oklahoma in July (Page 9). We are very proud and humbled.

Bob Woods did an awesome job with his great swing band April 2. Bob really does a wide array of music. He brought hi "Western



Continued on page 9

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.
Tony Arana, Jam room Host



Sure is great to have Tony Arana back, I guess the snow melted on Highway 80!

DAVE STOGNER

Born May 15, 1920 Died May 17, 1989
Inducted October 2, 1988



In 1937, a dance floor was constructed in an old barn which had been moved to a five-acre site off of Shields Avenue in Fresno, California. The barn was named The Big Fresno Barn and featured dancing to the music of entertainers playing pop music. Pop music was about all people wanted to dance to and hear. Country Western music wasn't popular in

Fresno then. A person could go into a place, put a quarter into a jukebox, play three Pop songs and one Country and there would be someone complaining, "who the hell played that one!"

By the late forties, though, more and more places were featuring Country Western musicians for entertainment and Country Western music segments were becoming popular on the radio. People who wanted to hear or dance to this style of music could go to places such as Fort Washington Beach, Riverview Park, Johnny's Place, Flamengo Club on Broadway, Hoedown Hall, and cozy Inn.

When Country Western musicians began playing at the Big Fresno Barn, the crowds were small. Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys was the only band that could draw a crowd then. The music was not popular enough to make it easy for the rest of the Country Western entertainers, but Bob Wills helped get the road open. Then, in the early 1950s Dave Stagner and the Western Rhythmaires came along and turned it into a freeway. The Big Fresno Barn featuring Dave and his band became so popular that it could have been called Nashville West, for this became the place where the top Country Western entertainers wanted to perform and Dave Stagner and the Western Rhythmaires was the band they wanted to perform with in California.

Those of you who thought that Country-western music started with Urban Cowboy, think again. The man up on the stage in his feather-trimmed Stetson, wearing white cowboy boots, a



Continued on page 10

MARC CAPORONE

Inducted October 2, 2023



Marc Caparone has been playing classic jazz and swing trumpet for the last 30 years. He began his career playing traditional jazz in central California at the age of fifteen, and within a few years was playing with several jazz bands throughout the state. His first opportunity to play Western swing was in San Francisco in the early 90's, playing alongside the legends Bobby Black and Jimmy Rivers in Johnny Delk's Rhythm Rustlers, an experience that also made him a lifelong fan of the music of Milton Brown and Bob Wills. Around the same time he discovered the inspired trumpet playing of Benny Strickler, who played both traditional jazz with Lu Watters and Western Swing with Bob Wills.

Marc began studying the playing of the great early Western Swing trumpeters such as Alex Brashear and Danny Alguire, and later the fiery sounds of Dick McComb, Billy Jack Wills' horn man. For many years Marc played with the High Sierra Jazz Band from Three Rivers, which featured the vocals of the 'Singing Cowboy' Earl A. McKee. A highlight of those years was accompanying Earl on many Jimmy Rogers songs, especially Blue Yodel No. 9. He later performed with Jason Robert's Western Swing All Stars at the Redwood Coast Music Festival, and in subsequent years he played there with the Western Swing All Stars led by Dave Stuckey.

Marc became a member of Dave Stuckey and the Hoot Owls and performed with Dave in 2020 at the Ameripolitan Awards in Memphis, at which Dave won an award for Best Male Western Swing Artist. He continues to perform with Dave and the Hoot Owls regularly. Outside of the Western Swing genre he also plays with traditional jazz and swing bands throughout the US. Marc says, "I have a great love for the early Western Swing trumpet style as played by the greats; Benny Strickler, Alex Brashear and Danny Alguire- and I try to put some of their spirit in my own playing."

Marc became a member of Dave Stuckey and the Hoot Owls and performed with Dave in 2020 at the Ameripolitan Awards in Memphis, at which Dave won an award for Best Male



Western Swing Artist. He continues to perform with Dave and the Hoot Owls regularly. Outside of the Western Swing genre he also plays with traditional jazz and swing bands throughout the US. Marc says, "I have a great love for the early Western Swing trumpet style as played by the greats; Benny Strickler, Alex Brashear and Danny Alguire- and I try to put some of their spirit in my own playing."

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/Zeyckos7xmW7z9Lr6>

Western Swing Society Café Menu

Serving time: 12pm– 3:15pm

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

Chili Dog with chips or potato salad \$5.00

BLT on Sourdough with chips or potato salad \$7.00

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 added.

2023 UPCOMING BANDS	
May 7	Micheal Ray Strauch
June 4	Geoff Miller
July 2	Rhonda Lynn & Edgewood Station
August 6	Lincoln Highway
September 3	The DeLeons
Sept 29,30 Oct. 1	Hall Of Fame
November 5	Rob Shotwell Band
December 3	TBD

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE



The Man taking the photos, Don deMars





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!

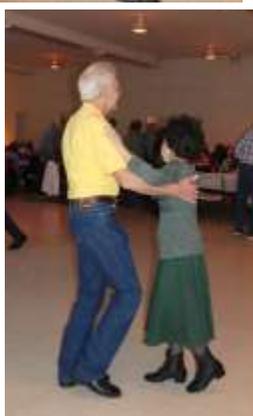
1. The name, address, phone and email of member submitting the nomination
2. The name, address, phone and email of the nominee
3. The nominee's name as the nominee wants it shown in the bio and on the Hall of Fame registry
4. Biographical information about the nominee, with emphasis on involvement with 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.

LET'S SWING AT THE WESTERN SWING SOCIETY

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



Thank you to Don deMars who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.

THANKS FOR ALL THE MUSIC BANDS



Raffle Winners



Thank you to Don deMars and Mae McCoy who helped me get some pictures for our newsletter.

WESTERN SWING SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MARCH 13, 2023

Meeting called to order by Vice President Elkan at 6pm via Zoom.
 Members Present: Elkan, Barnes, Robinson, Smith, Chase and McCoy
 Approval of Minutes via previous email

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

We have no current President. No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

No Report. Treasurer unable to attend meeting.

NEWSLETTER REPORT:

Newsletter being put together.

WEBMASTER REPORT:

No report. Webmaster Rietz unable to attend.

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR AND GRANT MANAGER REPORT:

Discussion to subscribe to PosterMyWall.com and having Board pay the \$99 plus tax a year. McCoy to give Treasurer a copy of receipt. Moved Elkan, Second Robinson. Approved 6-0.

Discussion to print American Legion Food Menu in Newsletter to boost sales.

Discussion of Plaques for Hall of Fame. Pricing will be researched for the most affordable options. McCoy and Elkan will coordinate with Janet Eminus.

OLD BUSINESS:

Barnes pointed out that the Machinists Hall floor is badly in need of cleaning. Smith said line dance corner area of floor was very slick. Barnes will coordinate with the Hall for cleaning of floor.

McCoy expressed the importance of the Jam Room. We need sign-up sheet – possibly erasable board system. That we should be welcoming to the new talent that comes to the Jam Room and that they should have a good experience.. Chase reminded us that the Jam Room is very critical for our future.

Elkan and Smith discussed the new sound equipment that was purchased which includes Electronic Sound Board, Soundboard and 2 speakers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved Elkan, Second Smith. Approved 6-0.

Next meeting via Zoom – Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6pm.

Sandy Robinson (Secretary)



Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest



2023 Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Lawton, Oklahoma

July 13, 14, 15

Congratulations 2023 Inductees!

<i>H. D. Ainsworth (promoter)</i>	<i>Springhill, LA</i>
<i>Jack Carr</i>	<i>Brenham, TX</i>
<i>Ronnie Elkan</i>	<i>Roseville, CA</i>
<i>Shelley Elkan</i>	<i>Roseville, CA</i>
<i>Brady Honeycutt</i>	<i>Buda, TX</i>
<i>Cherilyn Johnston</i>	<i>Garland, TX</i>
<i>Rocky King</i>	<i>Seguin, TX</i>
<i>Ben Lawson</i>	<i>Ninnekah, OK</i>
<i>Bob Rohan</i>	<i>League City, TX</i>
<i>Roy Rosetta (posthumous)</i>	<i>Nederland, TX</i>
<i>Steve Short</i>	<i>Yukon, OK</i>
<i>John David Smith</i>	<i>Lone Grove, OK</i>

Editor's Letter Continued from page 9

Swing A-Game". Originals and standards with twin parts played perfectly with Olen Dillingham on fiddle and 5-string mandolin. Steve Clark was on bass. Gary Campbell brought his great rhythm guitar and all the sang all the western swing songs we love to hear. He also did some originals. On drums was John Gardiner. Great job guys, can't wait to have you back.

After Bob and Virginia Kuykendall got through giving money to our lucky raffle winners, the House Band was ready to go. Just never seems to be enough time for all that talent. Jimmy Baughman sang and played guitar; Ralph Chase sang and played keyboards; Lenny Serdahl Sr. sang and played guitar; Steve Clark sang and played bass; Bill Cornett sang and played drums; Ronnie Elkan (Me) played fiddle. Arron Smith came up to play drums and we also had Jt Lawrence come up to play guitar.

As usual we had a lot of talented singers and not enough time. I hope everyone understands if we don't get them up. Big thanks to Janice Allen, Peggy van den Broeck, Linda Baughman, Janice Cole and Micheal Ray Strauch.

Like I mentioned before, it takes a team to put on a dance. Thank you to all the volunteers that are on the scene and all of those working behind the curtain.

Dave Stogner continued from page 3
leather vest, and a western string tie, fiddle in hand, has an air of having been doing this for quite a while.

The scene is O.T. Price's Country Music Hall in Santa Cruz, the man is Dave Stogner, and his career has, to date, spanned five decades. He's played with some of the biggest names in country music, including Bob Wills and Hank Williams, as well as having his own Country-western TV show for ten years. He is even represented in the Country Music Hall of Fame. Four of his original compositions: "Yes Sir" "Black Cat Stomp", "O Sweet Mama", and "Walking on Easy Street", were voted this honor.



Stogner was born in Gainesville, North Texas around 1920. He says he started playing music because "it beat picking cotton". His first jobs were with his dad, playing barn dances for the local community. Then he and some friends put together a band and "crossed the river" up to Ardmore, Oklahoma, where they played for a radio station. "It was a young group", Stogner remembers, "I think that the piano player was the oldest, must've been about sixteen.

Moving back and forth between Oklahoma and North Texas, it was in Oklahoma around 1935 that Stogner hooked up with Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys. "Bob didn't have the best band around back then," Stogner said, "Maybe about the third or fourth best." But Wills was the one who managed to put together the first successful country big band and Stogner wanted to play with a band with a horn section. "I always wanted to play horns, just ended up playing fiddle somehow," he says.

In 1936, with his own group The Arkansawyers, Stogner had a radio show for KWFT in Wichita Falls which was sponsored by a chicken hatchery. He recalls having to hold up the chickens by their necks between songs to make them chirp for the commercials.

But the sponsor did not want the group to play for dances, which was where the money was, so in 1938 Stogner moved to Amarillo to play with a group called The Sons of the West. Two years later, the threat of war caused the only non-musical gap in Stogner's life, when he joined the Marines.

Continued next column

After a three-year service hitch, Stogner came out to California. He started his West Coast career in San Francisco, playing with a number of groups, among them Ray Wade and the Rhythm Riders and Elwin Cross and the Arizona Wranglers. Tiring of playing for other people, Stogner put together his own band and went down to Tulare, California. In his own words, the band played, "radio shows, dances, anything we could get, we played". This period culminated with a night a week job in Los Angeles which Stogner said was "just too much," so he moved to the relative backwater of Fresno.

Fresno turned out to be a good move for him. It was the fifties and country music was big in the largely agricultural Central Valley. Stogner ended up staying for sixteen years, ten of which were spent doing a country-western TV show broadcast from the Fresno Barn, a country-western venue with a seating capacity of about 2,000. Around this period, Stogner also played with Hank Williams during his west coast tours.

In the early sixties, Stogner moved to Bakersfield to do a daily TV show for Channel 17 there, until 1966 when he semi-retired.

His more recent career began unexpectedly. He came to Santa Cruz County to play for the county fair and local club owner O.T. Price heard a tape of the performance and asked him if he wanted to go to work. "I reckon I do," said Stogner, and quickly became a fixture on the local country scene, playing for the next 18 months with Joe Ritchie's band at O.T.'s.

Olen Dillingham With "The Hoot Owls"

Olen's post on Facebook *"I had a grand time playing with Dave Stuckey and the Hoot Owls this weekend at the Three Rivers Jazz Fest. What a pleasure to get to play with these wonderful musicians. Dawn Lambeth, Katie Cavera, Carl Sonny Leyland, Josh Collazo, Mikiya Matsuda, and Chris "CW" Wilkinson. Thanks Darcy Wondra for the photos and support.*



LET'S VISIT



Thank you to Don deMars 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/>

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>

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/>

Lincoln Highway Trio: Every Tuesday, 1:15-3:45pm. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. \$6 cover at the door. <https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhighwaybandca/>

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

Micheal Ray Strauch & The Fortunate Few
Contact Facebook for dates and places

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.

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

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.

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.