

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



**TOM GUNTERMAN**



**HUCK FIELDS**

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## 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Brad Barnett



Nancy Long



Meghan McCoy



Carl Bower



Slade Rivers



Daron Brown



Kevin Russell



Michael Gregory



Paul Shelasky

CONGRATULATIONS



Bill Griffin



Tony Marcus



Kevin Wimmer

## GUEST BAND (1st TIME) Sept. 3, 2023



**The DeLeons  
 & Their Band**

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

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*Swingers of August*

**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

**Letter from The Editor**



Hey Folks

I got to tell you we have the greatest members and non-members that come to our dances. It's been hot here in Northern California and our great volun-

teers have been working overtime to keep the Machinist Hall at a reasonable temperature and our members have just been great.

No one would know, so I got to tell you how hard our volunteers worked on the hall before everyone got there. The place was not left in any kind of shape for a dance so our people had to sweep, mop and replace bathroom supplies before the dance. Our American Legion folks, who are just there to supply food, pitched in and helped. They all were amazing and I feel very guilty about not being there. I want to especially thank Ralph Chase, a volunteer board member for making this dance happen. All our volunteers work real hard from the front desk to our sound man, Thanks from all of us!

I've recently been away in the Houston area, for medical reasons, and Shelley and I have had a chance to take in some of the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest (WSMSS) dances. For us it's been like being home with you folks and that has been a great comfort to us.

You know better than I that we had a great band in our hall last month. Yes, Lincoln Highway came out of "Semi-Retirement" to volunteer their talent to our stage. They still are performing but mainly as a three-piece combo. I for one am glad to see them.

The band is Doug Weiss on bass guitar and vocals; Terry Crouson on guitar and vocals; Brian McCommas on guitar and Michael Cox on drums. Thanks boys.

Our "Hall of Fame" house band came on next. Jim Baughman on guitar and vocal; Ralph Chase on keyboard and vocal; Bill Cornett and Arron Smith drums and vocals; Steve French on pedal steel and vocal and Steve Clark on bass and vocal. Singing with the band were Linda Baughman, Janice Allen, Rhonda Rogers and Nancy long.

In the back room the Jamroom Band was cooking, music that is. We welcome eve

*Continued on page 8*

**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](mailto: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*



*Jammin'*

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



**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.

**TOM GUNTERMAN**

Inducted October 2, 2022



My first instrument was the flute in the third grade. I cried until I got the lessons I wanted and then cried until I was allowed to quit. I wanted to play music, not learn to play music. I never was good at practicing.

I got a violin in the fifth grade because back then schools had school orchestras and it was free.

I chose the violin because my parents had given me a guitar and I figured since violins and guitars both have strings they would be the same. They do both have strings.

My parents, holding no grudges from the flute fiasco, gave me private lessons. My teacher was a college student majoring in violin. I don't know how she could have put up with me. I had quit the crying strategy, but I still didn't practice. About ten minutes before she came over to give me a lesson, I would panic, practice (which was pointless at that point), and she would patiently play along with me the piece I should have learned long ago. As I remember it, we played the same Mozart concerto in G for years, the first page. I always enjoyed the lessons themselves because I didn't have to be able to read music so much when someone else was playing. She did teach me to get a good tone and I've always been proud of that. Whatever I do right I owe to her and whatever I do wrong I thought of myself. I think she got a dollar an hour. Can you believe it? She drove to my house and taught me an hour, often staying longer. Poor lady.

I began college as a music major. Music majors were given free lessons so that seemed to be the smart thing to do. I continued for a couple of years until, as a music major, I could no longer avoid giving a recital. I changed majors to a non-music one because I had terrible stage fright. I continued playing in the college symphony. I wanted to play with others and perform. Since I was never seated in the front of the stage and my seat partners seemed to know what they were doing, on hard passages I could copy their bowing up and down and not make any noise that would harm the performance. I was cool with that.

I found a fiddler in town who gave lessons and I finally got up the nerve to go to him even though it

*Continued on page 11*

**ORVILLE "HUCK" FIELDS**

Born March 4, 1919 Died May 4, 2012

Inducted October 2, 1988



Born to Melvin and Birdie Fields, Huck was the fifth of seven children in his family. Loving husband of 67 years to wife Dottie. Loving father to Jimmy, Jack (deceased) and Joe Fields. Grandfather to Jacqueline (Schechter), Andrew and Alec Fields. Most loving Great grandfather to Jack

and Nate Schechter.

Huck grew up in a musical family and started playing the family violin at age nine and was self taught. Huck had 4 sisters and two brothers, all of whom were very close to each other and maintained a strong and close family relationship despite being spread out across the states and loved each and every one of his siblings. At age 17, Huck came to California, like so many others of that era where the promise of prosperity was bright. He met up with fellow musician Bob Hern and together they played music in the No. ca. town of Gridley as well as other small farming communities dotting No. Ca. and eventually played music in venues from up and down the entire central valley and San Francisco bay area going from town to town and further honing his talent.

In WWII, Huck served in the Army Air Corp. and eventually was honorably discharged at the end of the war. At such time, he returned to Richmond California to resume his musical career with friend Bob Hern where he was introduced, and met the love of his life, Dottie and married her after just 3 weeks courtship. Soon after their marriage, they began a family with their first born son Jimmy, born in 1946 and their second son Jack, born in 1947 while living in San Pablo Ca. In addition to playing musical jobs in nightclubs, TV and radio shows on weekends, Huck held down a day job working for Berkeley Pump Co. as a shipping clerk and continued to stay busy doing everything he could to support his family. After the boys were a few years old, Dottie also went to work, for what was then "Harvey's Giant hamburgers where owner, founder Russ Harvey befriended the two of them and where Dottie quickly worked her way up the ranks to become manager further solidifying the family's future. About that same time, they had a third son, Joe in 1955 and relocated from San Pablo to neighbor

*Continued on page 11*

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 AT WSS**



## 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



## 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/E23Wj4rv498Mxvxm9>

### 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

September 3	The DeLeons
Sept 29,30 Oct. 1	Hall Of Fame
November 5	Mae McCoy & her Neon Stars
December 3	TBD



DANCE, DANCE, DANCE (Photo's By Don deMars)



TIME TO SWING (Photo's By Don deMars)



LET'S SWING (Photo's By Don deMars)



Raffle Winners



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

**Come Join The Fun At  
The Western Swing Society's  
42nd Annual  
WESTERN SWING  
HALL of FAME  
MUSIC FESTIVAL  
Sept. 29-30, Oct., 1, 2023**

**Machinists' Hall, Rancho Cordova, California**

**FREE TO MEMBERS ON FRIDAY (5:00-9:00pm)**

**\$10 Saturday & Sunday**

**THREE DAYS OF DANCING**

**AND LISTENING FUN**

**A Dozen Great Western Swing Bands**

**Daily Jam Sessions**

**For Listening and Dancing**

**On-Site Beverages and Food Available**

**Special Western Swing Room Rates at  
Nearby Holiday Inn Rancho Cordova**

**11269 Point East Dr. Rancho Cordova,  
CA 95742**

**Phone: 916-635-4040 (Ext 411)**

**\$129+tax Without Breakfast**

**\$139+tax With Breakfast**

**OTHER HOTELS IN THE AREA**

**La Quinta:** 11131 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, (916) 638-1111

**Doubletree Suites by Hilton Hotels:** 11260 Point E. Drive, Rancho Cordova, (916) 638-4141

**Marriott:** 11211 Point E. Drive, Rancho Cordova, (916) 638-1100



*Editor's Letter continued from page 2*

ryone to participate in the jam room so please let them know you are there.

We are all really excited about the Hall of Fame this year. On Friday September 29 we will be having a "member appreciation night". Our "Jamroom Band" will be on the mainstage to play some great dance music and give folks a chance to come up and do a couple of songs with the band. Entry will be FREE to members and \$10.00 for non-members. WSS is trying to give our members a good time. Friday will start at 5:00 pm and go till 9:00. Saturday will be different bands all day from 10 am to 9:00pm. I will send out the final band list as soon as I complete it, so watch for the email. Sunday will be our Hall of Fame Ceremony along with dancing and music all day from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Hotel information is on page 8.

Friday, September 29, 2023 Hall of Fame

Hey Dancers, I've got some great news. The board wants to do something for our members, have some fun and increase our attendance on Friday night September 29 of Hall of Fame. This year Hall of Fame falls on September 29-30 and Sunday October 1. So we asked the "Jamroom Band" to play on Friday September 29 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm and have guests up to do a couple of dance songs.

Members will be FREE, so bring your membership cards please. We will have our regular \$10 charge for non-members. Hopefully that will cover the cost of renting the hall. We will see how this works out and try to do something that will keep our tradition of having a western swing dance on Friday at hall of Fame.

**Western Swing Society**  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

**2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

BRAD BARNETT	CARL BOWERS	DARON BROWN
MICHAEL GREGORY	BILL GRIFFIN	NANCY LONG
TONY MARCUS	MEGHAN "MAE" MCCOY	SLADE RIVERS
HEVIN RUSSELL	PAUL SHELASHY	HEVIN WIMMER

**HALL OF FAME WEEKEND**  
**SEPT. 29TH, SEPT. 30TH, OCT. 1ST**

2749 SUNRISE BLVD, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95742

TO ALL THE MUSICIANS, THANK YOU (Photo's By Don deMars)



**LINCOLN  
HIGHWAY**



**HOUSE  
BAND**



*Tom Gunterman continued from page 3*

meant playing in front of a stranger. I had always wanted to play fiddly stuff, lively music. I took my cassette recorder to the lesson and he showed me how to play fiddle. I was excited because he showed me what the traditional fiddle shuffle was and some real cool fiddly sounds. When I got home I discovered I hadn't pressed record properly and nothing was recorded. I couldn't remember anything either, so out of embarrassment I never went back for a second lesson.

I graduated from college with a major in language. I had always wanted to learn Japanese so I decided to go to Japan. That is where I finally became able to play. I met a group of bluegrass fanatics who invited me to play with them. The Japanese have a nice custom of praising whatever someone else does, declaring the person the best in the world no matter how poor the performance.

It is meant as encouragement to keep at it, with the idea that someday the person will get better. It worked for me. I have no problem with feeling good about complimentary lies about me, no matter how outlandish or ridiculous. I finally began to get over my stage fright and my playing took off.

The lessons that my teachers had suffered through for years finally bore fruit. Arpeggios and scales finally translated into my fingers going to the next note of the tune. And I finally practiced by just playing music I liked, hundreds of fiddle tunes, country music, and some jazz.

Since then I have been a member of the Western Swing Society and participated in the Sunday dances. I have been involved with bands that perform, such as Mae McCoy and her Neon Stars and have participated in the monthly jams. I have also played on several recordings, and one with Ronnie Elkan.



*Huck Fields continued from page 3*

ing El Sobrante. It was there where Huck and Dottie lived along with their three sons until 1968 at which time they opened their own restaurant and moved to Pleasant Hill. At that time, their oldest two boys had fled the nest, Jimmy serving in Vietnam and Jack moving to Hawaii where he married his wife Mary and had their only daughter Jacqueline. Hawaiian tradition is for party and celebration so for Jacqueline's first birthday, Huck and Dottie made their first trip ever to Hawaii to celebrate and Huck played his fiddle for the occasion. Huck and Dottie made subsequent visits to Hawaii to visit and always enjoyed their time spent w/Jack and Mary and little Jacqueline during those visits. Unfortunately, their son Jack was tragically killed in 1979.

Around that same time, Huck and Dottie left the Bay Area and bought a vacation home in Amador county in the town of Pioneer but after a couple of years decided they would rather live somewhere a little lower in elevation and soon found a ranch they could call home in Valley Springs Ca., where they enjoyed their retirement and easy living lifestyle for the next 20 years. During that time, their youngest son Joe married and Huck was there to perform the "wedding song" at their wedding ceremony.

Huck (and Dottie) met several wonderful friends and neighbors while living in Valley Springs. In 2006, they once again relocated, this time to the town of Lockeford to be closer to family and medical services and once again met a lot of good friends.

For all of his accomplishments to music, Huck was inducted into the California Western Swing society hall of fame in 1990 and enjoyed playing music with fellow honorees on weekends at their headquarters in Sacramento. In 2008 Huck also became a member of the Washington Western Swing Hall of Fame society and inducted ceremonially in person with most of his family present.

Several times, Dottie would hear Huck say that "Life has been a pleasure" a title of a song he admired from the Bob Wills band.

Over the last 6-8 weeks, Huck's health deteriorated and caused him to visit the hospital and stays in an assisted living facility. He was finally permitted to go home and spend time with his dear wife Dottie before passing away peacefully the next morning. We will always treasure the time we got to spend with this incredibly beautiful man and never forget his legacy.



January 3, 2010  
Huck sits in with the Starbuck Cowboys  
Ronnie Elkan and Huck

**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](http://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](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).

**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](mailto: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](http://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.