



NWWSMS

NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

Preserving, Promoting & Performing America's
Western Swing Music Since 1983
www.nwwsmo.com

PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

Vol. 39, Issue 1

NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

January-March 2021

**Preserving the music that is too country for Jazz
and too jazz for Country**

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SWING STEP BACK IN TIME: BOB'S BABY BROTHER, BILLY JACK WILLS

"Billy Jack Wills should be considered much more than a footnote in the music careers of his older brothers. He was an important artist in his own right who played Western swing with the complexity of jazz, the emotion of blues, and the aggression of rock 'n' roll."

*from AllMusic bio by Jim Smith
and an Interview with Charlie Moore by Andrew Brown*



The Wills boys, from left to right, youngest to oldest: Brothers Billy Jack Wills, Luther J. "Luke" Wills, Johnnie Lee Wills, and Bob Wills, and their father John Tompkins "Uncle John" Wills.

Perhaps the most underrated Western Swing bandleader ever was Billy Jack Wills, the youngest brother of Bob, whose Western Swing Band broke new ground for the genre in the early '50s. Born February 26, 1926, in Memphis, Hall County, TX, Billy Jack was exposed at an early age to the music of his famous brother, as well as his father, champion fiddler John Wills. After beginning his professional career in brother Johnnie Lee Wills' Tulsa band in the early '40s, Billy Jack went to California to work as a bassist and drummer for the Texas Playboys. In that group, he played a significant role both as a vocalist and songwriter, lending his bluesy voice to "Cadillac in Model A" and providing lyrics to the massive hit "Faded Love."

After six years as a member of the Texas Playboys, Billy Jack got his chance as a leader when Bob moved his base of operations from the Wills Point Ballroom in Sacramento to Oklahoma City. Tired of touring, mandolinist Tiny Moore stayed behind to manage Wills Point. Needing a new band to fill the void left by Wills' departure, Moore suggested Billy Jack. Bob agreed, and Moore and Billy Jack assembled a band that included trumpeter and bassist Dick McComb, fiddler/bassist Cotton Roberts, rhythm guitarist Kenny Lowery, and steel guitarist Tommy Varner. The group, dubbed Billy Jack Wills & His Western Swing Band, began broadcasting over Sacramento's KCRA radio in 1950, soon moving to the considerably larger KFBK.

Between 1950 and 1954, the group enjoyed a strong Northwest following, touring and building up an eclectic repertoire of radio transcriptions. They covered many of the popular black hits of the time, including Ruth Brown's "Teardrops From My Eyes" and Larry Darnell's "For You, My Love." (Continued on Page 5 . . .)



*Pictured above:
Charlie Moore on
drums and Tiny Moore
(no relation) on
mandolin*



NWWSMS
NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

Business Address
PO Box 14003, MILL CREEK, WA 98082

A 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION FORMED IN NOVEMBER 1983 BY A GROUP OF MUSICIANS AND ENTHUSIASTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING, PROMOTING & PERFORMING WESTERN SWING MUSIC.

2020 Officers and Board Members

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Annual Membership:

Full membership (*one couple at one address*):
\$25.00
Single membership: \$20.00

Visit us on the web at: www.nwwsms.com
to read the newsletter in full color, JOIN the NWWSMS, RENEW your membership or DONATE.

Like us on FACEBOOK at
[NorthWest Western Swing Music Society](https://www.facebook.com/NorthWestWesternSwingMusicSociety)

Contact the editor,
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newsletter in your in-box.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase/Festival photos by
Jeanne & Fred Yearian.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

JANUARY - MARCH, 2021

In observance of the State-wide quarantine, the NWWSMS Board did not meet during the months of January through March 2021; however, corresponding through email it was decided:

- ★ to reschedule the 2021 festival and Hall of Fame celebration until August 2022.
- ★ the Society would cancel it's liability insurance for 2020,
- ★ renew the raffle license, and
- ★ renew the non-profit corporation license with the State of Washington.

It is hoped that with these cost saving measures we will be able to hold a festival and series of teaching workshops in 2022.

We will be filing the 2020 tax return by the first week of April.

Our sincere thanks to CPA Linda Teachout, who volunteered to do the taxes this year at no cost.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Yearian,
Secretary



1983-2021 Celebration

DUE TO CONTINUING HEALTH CONCERNS, THE NWWSMS AUGUST 2021 EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED.

SAME LOCATION, NEW DATES: AUGUST 11-14, 2022

WATCH FOR INFORMATION ON THE AUGUST 2022 NW WESTERN SWING MUSIC CAMP, WESTERN SWING MUSIC FESTIVAL AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CELEBRATION COMING THIS SUMMER ON FACEBOOK, IN THE E-NEWSLETTER AND ON THE WEBSITE AT [NWWSMS.COM](http://www.nwwsms.com).

Summer Music Camp
coming to the historic Field House (aka: Pete's Pool)
at the Enumclaw Event Center!

Click on the photo to the left for more information on the facility or go to:
<http://www.enumclawexpoctr.com/>



We'll be back once the dust settles, but, until we understand the new 'normal' stay safe and let's take care of each other.

Remember: Find ways to support your favorite musicians.

President's Corner - SHIFTING FROM 'LOCKDOWN' TO 'ALMOST NORMAL'

Spring is here! If I listen closely I hear it proclaiming "Take notice of life taking over again." Once again life is defeating dormancy—life will prevail. It gives me my daily dose of inspiration. I can't help but feel hopeful about our lives returning to some sort of normalcy in the months to come. I hope many of you out there feel something similar.

And, although parts of the country have opened up and are allowing larger, less restrictive gatherings, there are other parts, such as the Northwest, cautiously waiting perhaps to see the results of the bolder initiatives.



Jeanne Yearian



The WSMSS House Band performing at the 2021 March Showcase in Wichita Falls, TX

The Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest was given the 'go-ahead' by the local government to hold their first quarterly Showcase since last March. Last weekend, in Wichita Falls, Texas, there was live, indoor music and dancing. And, although the bands do not receive money for performing (like the NWWSMS & WSS), the Society could not fit all the bands who wanted to play on the schedule. Along with the live music, dancers filled the hall, from wall to wall!

And, Rex Barnes, President of the Sacramento Western Swing Society just announced a free outdoor dance/jam on April 18, at the Valencia Club in Penryn, CA. Although the Machinists Hall in Rancho Cordova remains closed, the WSS is going to try holding showcases and dances at different venues around the area. As they wrote in this month's issue of their newsletter: *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.*

Around the NorthWest Support Live, Local Music

For regular appearances at a particular venue to be included in the newsletter, contact the editor. Contact information for a member band is always welcome.

3rd Sunday Western Swing Jam, Enumclaw Music, 1515 Cole St, from 2 to 5! Due to State mandate, cancelled until further notice. Jeanne Yearian & Toby Hanson hosting.
Call 425-432-7888 for additional information.

Steel Country. For bookings or schedule updates call Duane at (425) 870-7311 or Pat at (425) 745-3798.

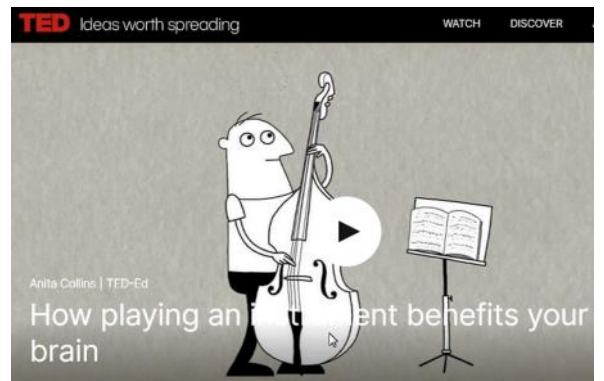
The Barn Door Slammers. For information on upcoming play dates, check their website at: www.barndoorslammers.com.

Mike Faast and Jangles. For information on upcoming play dates, check their website at: www.janglesband.com

Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners. Dance Hall Music by **The Sundowners.** Visit their website for information on additional play dates: www.thesundownersband.com

JC McCormick & the Cherokee Band. For booking information or a schedule of upcoming play dates, call JC at: 253-268-2314.

In June, the Board of the NWWSMS will talk about the possibility of having a picnic/jam in the Fall . . . But what do we do while we wait? We have options! We can learn new skills or brush up on old ones, perhaps signing up for a few music lessons in real time using Zoom or Skype. In this issue, we will look at a few possibilities (*suggestion: Begin with Toby Hanson's article on Page 6 of this newsletter*). Of course, the next question would be, "Why should I bother?" (*Let's put aside the obvious for now: support for the musicians who have not been able to perform this past year.*) I believe Elon Musk (Tesla, SpaceX) said the most important question students can ask their educators is "Why am I learning this?" The video below explains part of the benefit to playing music. It's short. I hope you will take a few minutes to watch. JY



Our thanks to Ramon Selby for sharing the video above.

Cherishing the Memories



Gloria Miers
1926-2021

Gloria Miers would be the first to admit that when her husband, Dewey, came to her over 30 years ago and told her he had plans for a weekend in Canton, Texas, sitting outside in the middle of June, listening to Western Swing music, she graciously declined

and sent him to the show with his brother. When he arrived home on Sunday, he had a big smile on his face and lots of video tape. He was elated that he had won four free tickets to the next year's show. The next year found Gloria in the front row with boots polished and toes tappin', while she reacquainted herself with a love for Bob Wills and Western Swing music.

After the death of Gene Garland in 1990, her husband, Dewey, was asked to take his place in producing the Legends of Western Swing Music Festival. The musicians and the fans soon became their family.

The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival began in 1987 in Canton, Texas, with Gloria and Dewey on board in 1990. After a quick stop in Snyder, the festival moved and settled in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1997. Since lawn chairs first circled the "stage wagon" over 30 years ago, The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival has hosted the finest western swing bands in the country. Legendary musicians that played with Bob Wills himself, as well as new bands with a love for it and desire to keep the music alive, have graced the stage and kept the fans happy and dancin'. With a desire to save a music form that seemed to be in trouble, Gloria and Dewey worked with passion to keep it alive – thanks to the best fans in the world and shows such as The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival, the great State of Texas now boasts Western Swing as the official state's music.

After Dewey passed away in 2000, Gloria became the sole producer of the show and Gloria Miers Productions was formed. Affectionately known as the "Grande Dame" of Western Swing, Gloria grew the Festival to crowds in excess of 4,000 fans. She prided herself in bringing to her stage only the best musicians Western Swing has to offer and hosted fans from around the country, as well as England, Japan, Canada and Australia.

Sharing the Journey

Our Society mourns the loss of two more of our strong supporters. Our sincere condolences:

To Cathy Metz, her family and the large community of friends and dance students on the loss of her father, Bill Metz.



From Phil Mitchell:

I am saddened to read of Bill Metz's passing. He was a great guy who loved his music, and his enthusiasm for life was an example for everyone, regardless of age. The Old Stokers Band will miss his booming rendition of THE GREEN BERET, among other songs. He was a patriot with whom I was proud to be acquainted.

Rest In Piece, Bill Metz.
Phil Mitchell
OLD STOKERS BAND



To Elliott Johnson, his family and the large community of friends on the loss of his wife, Cee Johnson.

Cee was a strong supporter of the Old Time & Country Music society, serving along side Elliot in various administrative capacities over the years. They both loved music and frequently came to the western swing showcases as well. Cee will be greatly missed.



Phil Speer
1955-2021

Phillip "Phil" Speer was born November 9, 1955, in Bakersfield, California. He grew up listening to Bob Wills, Ray Price, Merle Haggard and Buck Owens.

When Phil was young his family moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. Phil honed his skills

as a drummer and as soon as he was old enough he began playing clubs and casinos in the Western part of the country. During this time, Phil had the opportunity to drum in bands opening for **Ernest Tubb, Alabama, Johnny Lee, Charly McClain, New Riders of the Purple Sage, Norton Buffalo** and **Elvin Bishop**.

Over the years, in addition to pursuing his music, Phil worked for 3Com, Apple, and Amazon Lab126.

When he moved to the Sacramento area in 2016, Phil became involved with the Western Swing Society. He played at WSS dances with **Buck Ford and the Pure Country Band**, with **Bite The Bullet**, and has filled in on drums for the house band when needed. Phil is a team player and made himself available anytime he has been asked.

Phil said he was honored to fill in for Buck Ford's drummer, Arron Smith, for six months when Arron was recovering from a serious leg injury. He had been a reliable backup drummer whenever Buck Ford needs him, also working with Gary Blodgett for the past couple of years.

Phil's talents as a drummer were evident by the list of top caliber musicians with whom he worked. He played with and was respected by Bobby Black (**Commander Cody**), Jim Baughman (**Merle Haggard**), Pat Donahue (**Prairie Home Companion**), Al Quaid (**Jason Roberts**), Dave Ristrim (**Luke Bryan**), Bruce Kaphan (**Jewel**), Jay Dee Maness (**Buck Owens**), and **Buck Ford and the Pure Country Band**.

Phil's solid drumming on shuffles and swing kept the dancers on the floor and made him an asset to any Western Swing band. He will be greatly missed both by those on the bandstand and those on the dance floor.

Phil was inducted into both the NWWSMS and WSS Halls of Fame in 2019.

(Continued from Page 3, Bob's Baby Brother, Billy Jack...)



Billy Jack Wills and his Western Swing Band, early 1950s. From left: Vance Terry, Kenny Lowery, Dick McComb, Tommy Perkins (Charlie Moore on drums from 1950-53), Billy Jack Wills, Cotton Roberts, Tiny Moore.

The band truly came into being, however, after the start of the Korean War. Looking to replace the drafted Varner, Wills hired a local teenager named Vance Terry, a disciple of Noel Boggs whose crisp, driving style added the final element to the group's adventurous sound.

The enormous age difference (20 years) between Billy Jack and Bob meant that the younger's musical interests were considerably more advanced. While Bob had drawn inspiration from the primitive blues and jazz of the 1910s and '20s, Billy Jack's muse lay in the developing genres of jump blues, R&B, and be-bop. These fixations gave his group a progressiveness that was found nowhere else, characterized by its hard-swinging jazz rhythms and bluesy, shouted vocals, which drew heavily from the styles of Wynonie Harris and Roy Brown. Between 1950 and 1954, the group enjoyed a strong Northwest following, touring and building up an eclectic repertoire of radio transcriptions. They covered many of the popular black hits of the time, including Ruth Brown's "Teardrops From My Eyes" and Larry Darnell's "For You, My Love." In 1953, the group cut a version of Roy Brown's "There's Good Rocking Tonight"; later that year, they turned in a rollicking arrangement of Bill Haley's first hit, "Crazy, Man, Crazy."

The group's success, however, was short-lived. In 1954, Bob Wills disbanded the Texas Playboys and returned to Sacramento to perform with Billy Jack. The idea was to increase business at Wills Point, but the results were disastrous. Bob quickly took charge of the group and against the wishes of most involved, immediately set off on tour, at which point Tiny Moore quit to host a children's television show.

Out on the road, energies were soon sapped. Under Wills' control, the boldness that had characterized the band's radio broadcasts began to fold, channeled



Click above to play a Wills Point video, narrated By Dean McKinney Moore

Western Swing Forum Keep your letters and e-mails coming!

Editor's Note: The following was received from Rhonda Craig, HOF 2015:

Dear friends,

What a super wonderful weekend of music and dancing in Wichita Falls at the Elks Club this weekend. The spring WSMSS showcase was superb. The musicians provided outstanding music. On Friday night Bobby Flores came and played with Larry Lange's band. What a class act to show his appreciation to the WSMSS for sending many youngsters through scholarships to his music academy every summer. It's one thing to appreciate being sent music students but quite another to go out of your way in such a giant way to express that gratitude. Bobby Flores is indeed a class act and quite a gentleman...



Rhonda Craig

Please keep Gloria Miers family in your prayers. Even though they had her for a long time it is never easy to give up a loved one. Gloria was indeed the First Lady of Western Swing and she will be missed!

Much love to all.
RC

Bobby Flores with the Lone Star Troubadours



... Continued from column 1, Billy Jack Wills

into what was by now the rather stale sound of the Texas Playboys. That and the emerging television craze effectively ended the group. Vance Terry quit to enroll in college; he later joined Jimmie Rivers and the Cherokees. Tiny Moore went on to play with Merle Haggard & the Strangers. Billy Jack struggled on without success until 1960, when he retired from music. He died on March 3, 1991.



NO NEED TO MISS A BEAT DURING THE PANDEMIC BLUES

Editor's Note: Since Toby didn't title his article, I took some liberties

At the end of February 2020 I was looking forward to a busy spring and summer with a lot of bookings. I was scheduled to make an appearance at the Big Sky Gypsy Jazz Festival. I had several other solo bookings around Western Washington. I was expecting to do all of my usual festivals like the Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration and dozens of Oktoberfests. I had a trip planned to a guest ranch in Montana to play for a dance. I was already planning what I would teach at the Western Swing Music Camp in August. All of that slowly started to unravel in March as the pandemic tightened its grip on our region.

By mid-March, I was spending most of my days managing the cancelations of everything I had spent six or more months booking to keep myself working. One by one, the venues called and emailed to inform me that, due to circumstances, whatever had been meticulously planned was now canceled. For the remainder of 2020, I had only one performance, an outdoor performance in the courtyard of a senior living community near Issaquah. Ten months' worth of engagements were all canceled within just a couple of weeks.

The one thing that remained constant—but in a different form—was teaching. I have a large group of students taking accordion lessons. I had already been doing some teaching online for students who lived too far away from me. The students out on the Olympic Peninsula and in the Tri-Cities were already accustomed to what would become the new normal for music lessons: teaching on the Internet.

At its most basic level, online lessons aren't very different from in-person lessons. I listen to the students play their pieces, offer feedback and demonstrate proper techniques, and then the students play again. That doesn't seem like a big change from traditional lessons. The biggest difference, though, is that I can only see what's on my computer screen. That makes it hard to know exactly what's going on in areas I can't see. Arm angle from the elbow is very important on the accordion. Depending on how students have their computer or tablet set up, I can't always see things like their elbows or how their straps are set. Another challenge is that, because of lag in the Internet, I can't play along with my students in real time.

Aside from the limitations of not being able to see my students completely, online lessons work out well. One advantage of online lessons is that, depending on what program we use, students can record their lessons to use for future reference. That's especially useful when I play difficult passages for my students. They can record the lessons and then play back

those demonstrations for future reference while they practice. They can also use their recorded lessons to gauge their progress with learning difficult passages.

There are multiple platforms that can be used for online lessons. Since I have a Mac in my studio, I can use FaceTime with my students who also have Apple devices like iPads. FaceTime provides the most stable connection that I have found. The next best option is Zoom, which is platform-independent. Zoom has been adapted for everything from music lessons to concert performances to group meetings. It works well enough for music lessons but one downside is that the audio is programmed to favor speech over music so if my students talk while they're playing Zoom automatically reduces the volume of the music which can make it hard to hear them

while they are playing. Previously I had used Skype for online lessons but I have moved away from Skype as it has become more complicated and less reliable after Microsoft took them over and integrated Skype into their communications platform. I pay for a professional Zoom account so I can have Zoom meetings with unlimited length. That costs me \$15/month which is a good value for what it provides.

I have been very fortunate to be able to continue teaching during the pandemic. As a professional musician, I rely on performing for my income. Being able to continue teaching on the Internet during the pandemic has allowed me to keep some of my income and also keep my students on track with their learning. I really look forward to the day when this pandemic has ended and we can all return to our more usual way of life. I miss visiting with

my students to teach them lessons but I'm adapting and doing the best I can in the mean time.



Above: A view of Toby's screen and desk during an online lesson.



Paul Anastasio

Check Out Paul's YouTube Fiddle Lessons from His Weiser Workshops.

Search for 'Paul Anastasio western swing workshops'. That should get you there. There are videos of about a dozen Western swing tunes, both as violin/guitar duets and solo violin and solo guitar videos. It's all free. Paul will

send Finale and/or pdf files of the sheet music for the violin parts to anyone who wants them.

(Editor's Note: Click on the video link to the right to check out one of my favorite lessons:

Paul teaches "Troublin' Mind" and so much more!)



brazos valley boys[™]

NEW CD RELEASE

Swingin' Our Way

WITH GUEST STARS:
Ray Benson of Asleep at the Wheel
Rex Allen, Jr.

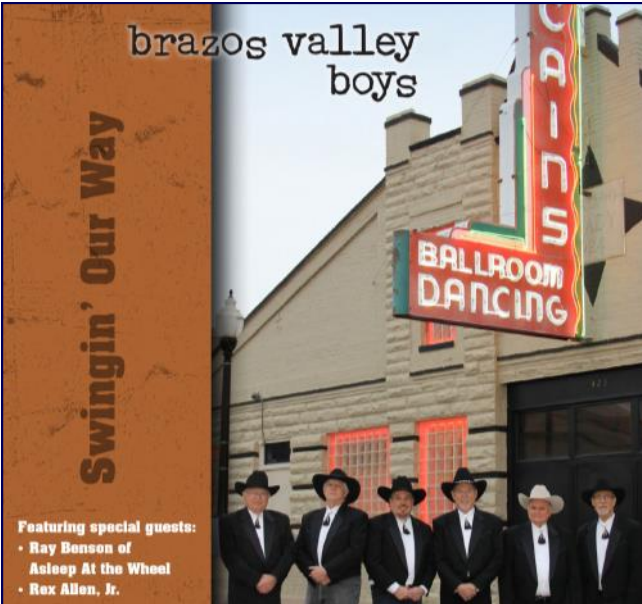
“...*Swingin' Our Way* is a disc that would, I think, make their former boss, Hank Thompson, very proud.”

Author, Journalist, Broadcaster, John Wooley

TO ORDER VISIT:

www.brazosvalleyboys.com
and purchase via PayPal
or www.Amazon.com





Album: Swingin' Our Way
Artist: Brazos Valley Boys

Album Reviews

by DJ Mike Gross



Mike Gross

The Brazos Valley Boys under the direction of Morey Sullivan have just recorded a wonderful new CD of 12 cuts with the spotlight on many of their fine musicians and guest vocalists.

Morey is heard on lead vocal and bass, Rob Loren plays fiddle, Mike Moore- trumpet and flugelhorn, Joe Settlemires- lead and rhythm guitar, Gary Sullivan- drums/percussion and backup vocals and JD Walters is playing steel guitar. Asleep at the Wheel icon, Ray Benson joins Morey on vocal duet on the pop standard, *That's Life*. Rex Allen Jr. joins Morey on vocal duet on a medley of Chet Atkins and Boudleaux Bryant's *Midnight* and Bob Wills and Tommy Duncan's *Brain Cloudy Blues*. Elizabeth Sullivan joins Morey for a duet on Leon Russell's *This Masquerade*. Other musicians heard on various cuts are Frankie Kaye- lap steel, Harry Miller- keyboard, Jim Piller- drums, Adrian Rees- lead and rhythm guitar, Bruce Roberts- Drums, Bob Walzel- saxophone and clarinet and Josh Ward- rhythm guitar.

The album opens from the Bob Wills library with *Blues for Dixie* and the pop big bands are remembered with Duke Ellington's *Do Nothing Till You Hear from Me*. There is also a nice medley of *How High the Moon* and Charlie Parker's *Ornithology*. Other pop, blues and jazz favorites revisited are *Blues O'Mighty*, *In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning*, *Relaxin'*, Peggy Lee's *I Love Being Here With You* and Ray Charles' *Hallelujah I Love Her So*. A true gem is Cindy Walker's *You Don't Know Me*, from Eddy Arnold, Jerry Vale and so many others.

The CD is \$15.00 plus five dollar shipping fee. Anyone can order it from www.brazosvalleyboys.com. On the website they can pay via PayPal. It can be ordered from Amazon either as a complete CD or you can stream individual tracks.

NWWSMS Application for Membership

Date Rec'd: _____ Rec'd by: _____

NAME: _____ NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

ADDRESS: _____ INDIVIDUAL, \$20.00 COUPLE, \$25.00

_____ DANCER SUPPORTER

CITY: _____ PERFORMER VOCALIST BAND LEADER

STATE / ZIP: _____ BAND: _____

PHONE: _____ INSTRUMENT(S): _____

E-MAIL: _____

I have enclosed an additional \$ _____ donation to the NWWSMS workshop/scholarship fund

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Use the E-mail provided above to send newsletters and other NWWSMS news
- Please have someone send me a paper newsletter
(Note: the NWWSMS does not mail out paper newsletters)
- I'd be happy to print and mail _____ extra newsletters to those without e-mail access
- Please DO NOT include me in the Membership Roster.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



*Hello,
from deep in the
Heart of Texas!*

by Paula Jungmann

Wow this has been some year across our great country. So much has been stopped our lives, visiting our families and friends, music, our passions all ended suddenly. And now we are finally seeing a slow return to some normalcy.

Here in south central Texas we've had an opportunity to have soft openings for our non profit organization clubs and the bands are finally hitting those stages once again. It's by far not back to the robust music scene of the past but, it's a beginning.

We have some festivals that are finally being rebooked. The Anhalt Western Roundup is scheduled for April 16-18, 2021. A first time festival that was put on hold due to the pandemic in 2020. We are all looking forward to this only country/western swing festival in the San Antonio, TX area.

The annual 31st Brady Country Music Festival, a week long event is scheduled for March 19-27, 2021 after being cancelled twice in 2020. It's a sell out for ticket sales and much needed boost for the event as well as, the bands.

San Angelo Cowboy Gathering is currently booking sponsorships for their Sept event and is enjoying rapid sales of tickets...We're most grateful for this non profit's return.

My page, Western Swing Music of Texas Group as grown by leaps and bounds during this hiatus. People I think were looking for entertainment and searched for what ever they could to get a taste of it during lockdowns. This group grew over 2000 members since Sept 2020. We were trying to keep the interest going in Western Swing and Texas Music during this unprecedented time in our lives.

'Till Next Time

A Festival to Remember

The Anhalt Western Roundup is a 3 day classic country music and dance festival that takes place at the historic [Anhalt Dancehall](#) in Spring Branch, Texas. The

majority of the proceeds of this festival will be designated to support the Anhalt Western Roundup Scholarship Fund which awards scholarships to local graduating high school students pursuing agriculture or trade school educations.

Music, Food, Vendors and Entertainment!

- Join us for amazing classic country artists to listen and dance to all weekend!
- We'll have vendors, food and cold beer!
- Team Goat Roping on Saturday!
- Cowboy Church on Sunday!

Check out our [FAQs](#) page



Bob Richards
YouTube: radiobob805

(Editor's Note: He has done it again! Here is another Bob Wills/Charles Starrett western, masterfully remixed for us by radiobob805.

Our family tradition was to watch westerns together on Sunday afternoons. My mother was convinced those Stars of the Silver Screen would teach her children right from wrong. And, she was right. We always knew when we were doing wrong.)



First song is *Home in San Antone*, and after the second song, *Stay a Little Longer*, Tommy has some lines. He's kidding Charles Starrett about shaving because he met a pretty girl.



Anhalt Western Roundup
CLASSIC COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL
APRIL 16-18, 2021
Dance all weekend to our extraordinary lineup!
BUY TICKETS NOW!



“Voice of the UK” on FRH Radio

Firstly can I say that it is an honor for me to be asked to write about myself for the NorthWest Western Swing Music Society. So where do I start? Well I was born a lot of years ago – 1945 to be precise, so I grew up in the best years where the 60's were prime in me letting my hair down as a teenager. Music was always in the family as my Dad used to sit and strum a Ukulele and Mother was always singing at the top of her voice.

I learned to strum a guitar and with a friend (who ended up being my brother-in-law) used to sit and sing Hank Williams and Johnny Cash songs on the door step. Hank Marvin and the Shadows quickly became my heroes so I moved off in that direction. I joined a band and in 1964 made my first venture to the Top Ten Club in Hamburg, Germany, where I earned my dues. It was hard work. On return we moved around opening for a number of stars at the time as well as playing the USAF bases in the UK and then in 1966 toured the American Army bases that were in France at that time. This is where I had my first taste of American culture.

In 1969 I decided to quit the music business and take up a real job as by then I had a small family and felt my duty was to support them so at a suggestion of a friend I joined the police force. The music however did not stay away too long. In 1974 I dropped in on a dance and there was a country band playing and they had this pedal steel guitar on stage - a beautiful ShoBud twin neck job. That did it. I was hooked. I just had to learn how to play one – and I did. With that I joined a country band and played regularly whilst still holding down my full time job. Tiring but it was worth it. I stayed on the Country scene for many years until the popularity started to wane in the UK. I then moved on to playing 50's and 60's music again and at one time was joined by my eldest daughter Kay who by then was singing. In fact Kay had been singing since the 80's.

I retired from the police in 1998 having served my time and took up another job, and musically flitted between solo, duo and band work and appearances at steel guitar festivals in the UK. Then the big C came along. Covid that is, and suddenly we found ourselves trapped at home. I had my studio at home where I would record and put music on YouTube and daughter Kay Cook-Abbott did the same. We had a good working relationship between us because if I needed female harmonies then I would send her the tracks at which point she would add and send back. If she needed guitar or steel I would do the same for her. Meanwhile however in the process of getting her music circulated she got involved with various independent labels and internet radio stations - in particular Cherokee Nation radio. I used to listen in especially to Mike Roe's Western Swing Show which is the branch of country music that I really liked. However this did not last long as Mike left the station and suddenly no Western Swing. I spoke to Kay about it and she said, “Dad I

reckon you could do that.” Hang on a minute, me a DJ? – whatever next. But she pushed me so I put a show together and hey presto it was accepted.

After a while our link with Cherokee Nation Radio had to come to an end for various reasons, so suddenly we had nothing. Then it came, didn't it. “Dad I reckon we ought to get our own station going.” (Hang on a minute – what is she trying to get me involved with now?) I must admit though not having had any involvement with independent artists before I was surprised at how good these artists were. Not only were they good but in all cases paying lots of money out of their own pockets, and using top musicians to get an album done. In our view these artists needed supporting.

So I said ‘yes’ and decided to continue my Western Swing Show. Kay in the meantime was doing the investigation work and linking with the artists and publishers and before you knew it we were up and running and FRH Radio suddenly was real. Kay organized her shows and I went on a gigantic search in my quest for all things Western Swing and trying to find a balance of old and new recordings.

Any success is not only due our hard work, but to the artists who have given us their support and are doing a great job creating the music we all love. Without their music and the support of listeners there would be no show – so thanks to you all.

Voice of the UK Swing Show
Artists being played week commencing
Sat 27th March 2021

<i>Mo Bandy and Joe Stampley</i>	<i>Keith Phillips</i>
<i>Eight Crust Doughboys</i>	<i>The B Stars</i>
<i>The Quebe Sisters</i>	<i>Hanks Williams</i>
<i>Billy Mata</i>	<i>Rick and the All Star Ramblers</i>
<i>Ray Pennington and Buddy Emmons</i>	
<i>Milton Brown and his Musical Brownies</i>	
<i>Bobby Flores</i>	<i>Wayne Hancock</i>
<i>Southwest Bisewit Company</i>	<i>Cornell Hurd Band</i>
<i>Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys</i>	
<i>Jody Nix</i>	<i>Red Jenkins</i>
<i>Johnnie Lee Wills</i>	<i>Lonnie Spiker</i>
<i>Jake Hooker</i>	<i>Tony Barge</i>
<i>Pee Wee King</i>	<i>Jeff Woolsey</i>
<i>Dennis Ledbetter</i>	<i>The Texas Playboys</i>
<i>Asleep At The Wheel</i>	<i>Junior Marvel</i>
<i>Amber Digby and Justin Trevino</i>	<i>The High Flyers</i>
<i>Ramblin Jimmy Dolan</i>	<i>The Maddox Brothers and Rose</i>
<i>Lost Weekend Swing Band</i>	<i>Tony Booth and Justin Trevino</i>
<i>Willie Nelson</i>	

VOICE OF THE UK SHOW on FRH Radio with Mick Hearn
Week of 27 March 21.

*** All times now shown in UK time.***

Sunday 7.00pm - Tuesday 1.00pm

Friday 1.30am and 9.30pm

You will find links to FRH Radio player on our web page at

frhradio.uk

ANA AWARDS.ORG



Virtual Event Cancellation

It is with regret that we will be unable to hold the virtual online awards for The Academy of Western Artists, on the date set aside for them to be broadcast of March 30, 2021.

Due to unfortunate scheduling circumstances, it is at this time virtually impossible to bring together all the powers that be in order to make that happen at this time. It doesn't mean that at some point it time it "wont" happen, It just means that we must wait until all the parts fall into place for us to safely and effectively make it happen.

Our film crew , in big part , is a team of Media Professionals who teach at a College in Oklahoma, and with the on again off again schedules of Public Schools and Universities, we have had our structure devastated multiple times in the last 60 days. PLEASE be patient with us, we are every bit as concerned with this as any of you are at this time. There have been multiple behind the scenes struggling going on for months now. A prayer would be in order if you are so inclined.

Please keep us in your thoughts as we struggle and strive to make this happen. If you want to speak with someone in reference to the decisions we have been forced to make, please contact Bobby Newton. Until that time that we are able to hold this awards show, either virtually or in person, please keep us in your thoughts that we will have better opportunities present themselves than what we've faced to this point.

Thank You
Dena Wood



Skeebo Norris

January-March Playlist for "Skeebo's Line Shack Review"

We here at Pickin' On The Oldies want to thank all of our very loyal and "new" listeners to our internet station. One thing we strive for is "Traditional Country and Western Swing," featuring the classic great artists and all of the upcoming new independent artists who are continuing to produce "Dance Music."....plus, we air old radio versions of Gunsmoke on Sundays at 6am and 6pm, along with Luke Clayton's Outdoors Show at 7am-8am on Sunday morn and archived editions of Glory Road, the old Quartet Gospel Music, with the late great Larry Scott as host at 9am-10am also on Sundays ...We'd LOVE to have you join us.... If you like us, please share with your friends who enjoy this music as well at www.sansabaradio.comwe are the Academy of Western Artists, STATION OF THE YEAR FOR 2018.....streaming 24/7.

Tommy Hooker - *Somewhere in Texas*

Lisa Layne - *Pretty Paper*

Bobby Flores - *South of the Border*

Bret Raper - *Texas Swing*

Hailey Sandoz - *You Don't Know Me*

Jason Roberts - *Fiddlin' 'Round*

River Road Boys - *Can't Get Enough of Texas*

Wade Benson Landry - *Let the Four Winds Blow*

Billy Cate - *Rose of San Antone*

Walt Roberts - *Oklahoma Hills*

Artists may send mp3 submissions to

production@sansabaradio.com

and personal messages to skeebo@sansabaradio.com

We are on Facebook as well... Pickin' On The Oldies.

To listen go to our website www.sansabaradio.com



www.westernswingsociety.net

Join the conversation on Facebook:
Sacramento Western Swing Society

(Editor's Note: Earlier this year, while returning a repaired amp to a friend, Fred was asked to repair another. Fred's first thought was to decline until he looked more closely - to his surprise, (and unknown to its owner) it was a 'death amp' and is now waiting for safety repairs in Fred's shop. Here are some tips on how to recognize these potential hazards.



Fred Yearian
Sound Engineer (and all-around nice guy) for the
NWWSMS Annual
Festivals, 2012-2019

Q: WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS GUITAR AMPLIFIER?

A: The answer is it is unsafe! And, the reason is it has the “death capacitor.” This was a pseudo-ground fix used in an attempt to solve a noise problem before three-pronged grounding plugs and receptacles were available. The attempt created an electrocution hazard.

Q: WHAT IS THE FIX?

A: We will do this by installing a three wire cord and eliminating the two wire receptacle on the back. Finally, the ‘death capacitor’ will be removed .

Included in this article are photos on how to recognize these death traps. The first photo pictures a two-wire line cord. Notice it doesn't even have a polarized plug with a wide blade (this is the neutral leg of the power system). Also this amplifier does have a receptacle to plug other two-wire cords into and it DOES have a polarized side indicated by a wider slot. See photo #1.

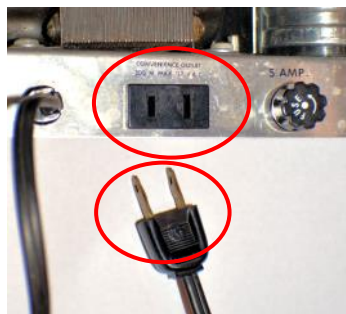


Photo #1: Two-wire line cord. It does not even have a polarized plug—one thin, one thick blade—although the receptacle above does.

This amplifier happens to be a Silvertone 1465 model and has a UL stamp on it. How it was passed as UL compliant is beyond me!



Photo #2:
3-position power switch
ON-OFF-ON

Next indication of an amp with the death capacitor can be seen in photo #2. You will; notice that the power switch has three positions (ON-OFF-ON). This is used to swap the two incoming power lines and hence the connection of one or the other to the death capacitor to the ground. The hazard occurs when this capacitor develops a short which can occur from a lightning strike or power transient or plain component failure.

Photo #3 shows the actual death capacitor in this amplifier. (Yes, it's the very red oblong component marked by the circle.)

The manufacturer tried to solve a problem with hum due to poor grounding. This is before the days of three wire receptacles.

So this amplifier waits for the day it may electrocute an unsuspecting musician. And, for good measure, read the warning card attached to the bottom of the case shown in photo #4.



Photo #3: The 'death capacitor'



Photo #4

For all who may be using those ungrounding plugs from three wire to 2 pins, stop! Fix the cause of grounding problems that cause noise. There is still a lot of vintage equipment around that has unsafe grounding.

Always use three wire cords with the grounding pin!

SAFETY TIP: If you get a tingling when brushing against a microphone or powered music equipment, shut down the sound system until the problem is found and fixed. Several musicians have died on stage from electrocution. ALWAYS test using the back of your hand. The back of your hand will cause your arm to move away from the shock instead of gripping a hot conductor.



September 10-11, 2021
First Financial Pavilion 50 E. 43rd,
San Angelo, TX

September 10, 2021

The Old Hat Band
Monte Good
Kristi Kalyn
Jody Nix & The Texas Cowboys
Jake Hooker & Tommy Hooker
Jeff Woolsey & The Dancelhall Kings

September 11, 2021

Cowboy Church @The Gathering with
Ricky Boen & Darrell Boen
Greg Gibbs
Billy Mata & The Texas Tradition
Floyd Domino
Justin Trevino
Brady Honeycutt
Rocky King Band
The Jason Roberts Band
Jody Nix & The Texas Cowboys



Tickets are \$50 per day or \$75 for a 2 day pass
NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN
ALL SALES FINAL
Call 325-763-9923 or 325-486-8637
www.sanangelocowboygathering.com
www.facebook.com/SanAngeloCowboyGathering
teri@sanangelocowboygathering.com



Wednesday June 9th	Thursday, June 10th	Friday, June 11th	Saturday, June 12th
6-7:15 Burger and Bean Supper	noon - 1:15 Will Bannister	noon - 1:15 Kelly Spinks	noon - 1:15 Landon Dodd
7-9 Dance & Jam Session	1:30 - 2:45 Jeff Woolsey	1:30 - 2:45 Tommy Hooker	1:30 - 2:45 Larry Lange
	3 - 4:15 Billy Mata	3 - 4:15 Bobby Flores	3 - 4:15 Jody Nix
	Break	Break	Break
	6:30 - 7:45 Will Bannister	6:30 - 7:45 Kelly Spinks	6:30 - 7:45 Landon Dodd
	8 - 9:15 Jeff Woolsey	8 - 9:15 Tommy Hooker	8 - 9:15 Larry Lange
	9:30 - 11 Billy Mata	9:30 - 11 Bobby Flores	9:30 - 11 Jody Nix

No Rocking Chairs Please

Hotel Accomodations:

Fairfield Inn - 325.573.1400 | Comfort Inn - 325.515-7550
Purple Sage - 325.573.5491 | Holiday Inn Express - 325.573.0376
Hampton Inn - 325.515.7555 | Executive Inn - 325.436.0594
Days Inn - 325.573.1166 | Motel 6 - 325.573.1964
Best Western - 325.574.2200 | Baymont Inn - 325.573.3700

325-573-3558
snyderchamber.org

Ticket Information:
Advanced Daily Ticket - \$23 (Ends May 17th)
Daily Ticket - \$25
All Week Pass - \$60
RV - \$25/ night

Free Cruise T-Shirt

Bobby Flores & The Yellow Rose Band

4U Inside - \$891
2N Outside - \$1071
4D Balcony - \$1440

All rates based on Double Occupancy

Western Swing Cruise To Alaska



7 Days - Sailing August 15, 2022 From Seattle, WA

**Call For Additional Pricing
Bob: (432) 638-3707**

\$700 deposit per cabin at time of booking. Final payment due May 10, 2022. Pricing based on double occupancy. Taxes and fees are additional, based on current cost. Airfare not included.

The band will play 3 private parties for our group. Booking through any source other than the agency listed will exclude you from these parties. Fees include band fee, security fees and taxes. Travel agency reserves the right to charge a cancellation fee of up to \$100 per cabin. Fuel surcharges of up to \$10 per day per person may be charges by Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

**P
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Sitka



Juneau



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Victoria, B.C.



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Cowtown

Birthplace of Western Swing Festival



BOB WILLS'
Texas Playboys
under the direction of
JASON ROBERTS



JAKE HOOKER
and the Outsiders
with Tommy Hooker



Jody Nix
and the
Texas Cowboys



BILLY MATA
& The Texas Tradition
CAROLEYN MARTIN & FLOYD DOMINO



THE BIRTH & HISTORY
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Fort Worth STOCKYARDS
with Kristyn Harris



Justin Trevino



JEFF WOOLSEY
and the DANCEHALL KINGS
BIG BLUE DIAMOND
DANCE CONTEST



Lisa Layne
THE LAYNE ROAD BAND



Landon's DODD
The Dancehall Drifters



SHOOT LOW SHERIFF

Thu, Nov 11, 2021		Fri, Nov 12, 2021		Sat, Nov 13, 2021	
3pm	Justin Trevino	10am	Stockyards Tour	1:30pm	Playgirls & LCD Tributes
5:30pm	Jeff Woolsey and his Dancehall Kings	11am	Herd Cattle Drive	2pm	Shoot Low Sheriff with Milton Brown Tribute
8:30pm	Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys	12pm	Kristyn Harris at Longhorn Saloon	4pm	Private Film Screening
Purchase Tickets Online:		4pm	Lisa Layne Band	5:30pm	Billy Mata and his Texas Tradition
BirthplaceOfWesternSwing.com		6pm	Landon Dodd	8:30pm	Bob Wills' Texas Playboys under the direction of Jason Roberts
		8:30pm	Jake Hooker and his Outsiders		

Join us for the inaugural Cowtown Birthplace of Western swing Festival. A who's who of legendary musicians from across the country will assemble in Fort Worth to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the birth of western swing at historic National Hall on the 2nd weekend of November.

This grand old dancehall has the unique distinction of having the Light Crust Doughboys, the Musical Brownies and the famed Texas Playboys all perform on its hallowed stage in the 1930s and 1940s. In addition to having nine bands perform at National Hall over Thursday, Friday and Saturday, there will also be a fun-filled Friday morning motor coach excursion to the Historic Stockyards District for a VIP Welcome, Herd Cattle Drive and Western Swing Dance at the Longhorn Saloon. Reserved seating is limited, so purchase your tickets today.

2nd Weekend of November



Cowtown
Birthplace of Western Swing Festival

Join us at Historic National Hall in Fort Worth, Texas