



PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

**Volume 36 Issue 6**

**A News Letter For and About Our Members**

**June 2019**

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

## **Before George Strait, there were the Texas Playboys. . .**

*(Editor's note: Our thanks to the Bud Kennedy and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for excerpts from the following article, remembering Leon Rausch, who died on Tuesday, May 14, in Fort Worth, Texas)*

Before George Strait was filling arenas for fiddle music, way back when Fort Worth went out dancing in an old bowling alley named Panther Hall, there were the Texas Playboys. Back then, Fort Worth's favorite Leon was not named Bridges. For 60 years since the 1950s, first on tour and then four times on TV's "Austin City Limits," the spirit of Milton Brown and Bob Wills' Western swing bands has lived on in the voice of Leon Rausch.

When Fort Worth friends said goodbye Wednesday to Rausch, gone at 91, Asleep at the Wheel front man Ray Benson was among those paying tribute to the man with the silky, honky-tonk voice performing the most familiar versions of songs such as "Faded Love" and "[A] Big Ball's in Cowtown."

When Strait and his band open Dickies Arena in Fort Worth Nov. 22-23 and play "Milk Cow Blues" or "Right or Wrong," somebody undoubtedly will remember how Rausch sang the same songs years ago as the last lead singer for the original Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys. "Losing Leon is a heartbreak for all of us in the country music world," Strait wrote in a text message read at Rausch's funeral in a southwest Fort Worth church.

Western swing music was born in Fort Worth 85 years ago. So it only makes sense that Fort Worth is where the last original vocalist would leave us. In the late 1920s, fiddle bandleader Milton Brown — not long out of Arlington Heights High School — was first to add jazz piano to a cowboy band and give it a red-hot, Western version of a jazz and blues sound.

That's how Western swing was born, at the old Crystal Springs Pavilion. 5653 White Settlement Road. When Brown connected with West Texas fiddler Bob Wills, they formed a radio band that became the Light Crust Doughboys, and Wills eventually broke away to Hollywood stardom.



*Leon Rausch (HOF 1994)*

*(Continued on page 4)*

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**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.

#### 2019 Officers and Board Members

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**Board Members:** Tony Bachler, Dave Enslow, Butch Gibson, Lori Hanson, Dorothy Pallas

#### **Annual Membership:**

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

Visit us on the web at: [www.nwwsms.com](http://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,  
[jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com), to receive our newsletter in your in-box.

#### PHOTO CREDITS:

Showcase photos by Jeanne Yearian.

### MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

**MAY 12, 2019**

President Jeanne Yearian called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

**Present by Verbal Role Call:** Tony Bachler, Sharon Capps, Dave Enslow, Butch Gibson, Lori Hanson, Dorothy Pallas

**Absent:** Sharon Smith

**President's Report:** Jeanne Yearian reported the letters inviting bands to take part in the August festival have gone out. The schedule for the entertainment on the main stage should be published by the end of the month.

The 2019 festival will take place from Thursday, August 8 through Sunday, August 11. Music workshops will begin on Wednesday, August 7, and carry through the weekend.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeanne Yearian reporting for Sharon Smith. An update on Printing Control's invoice was given. Our thanks to Tony Bachler for his help in getting the invoice reissued to the NWWSMS.

**IRS Update:** Jeanne Yearian reporting. The fine for the late filing of the 2017 taxes has been paid. An appeal will be made since the late filing was due to extenuating circumstances.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Sunshine:** Jeanne Yearian reported.

**Newsletter/Website/Facebook:** Festival information is being added as it becomes available.

**Showcase: The Old Stokers** is the host band for May. In June Steel Country with guest Paul Cooper will host the Showcase. Finishing out the season will be a July jam, hosted by the Board Band.

**2019 Western Swing Festival:** Jeanne Yearian reported she has contacted Ed Coppin with New York Caterers in Enumclaw regarding the possibility of providing food service for this year's festival. He will be giving us his decision this coming week.

**Raffle/Silent Auction Items Needed.** Jeanne Yearian reporting. Sharon Capps has offered to make the commemorative quilt this year. Discussion.

#### **Suggestions for Headliners/Daily EmCees**

No report given.

**Recruiting for Sponsors:** Jeanne Yearian reported Sponsors are being listed in the

newsletter as support is being received. They will be added to the website and publications.

**2019 Western Swing Music Camp:** Jeanne Yearian reported the instructors are confirmed and the brochure has been approved for distribution.

**Enumclaw Jam Update:** The second Third Sunday Western Swing Jam was held on April 21 at Enumclaw Music, from 2 to 5. Jeanne Yearian hosted. Tony Bachler, Chet Hasting and JC McCormick were welcome guests. The jam was well-attended. Folks enjoyed the stories and memories of times past as much as playing the music! Suze Spencer may join us at the next jam on May 19. Our goal is to be able to showcase at least one experienced western swing musician each month. Our guest musicians demonstrate the style as they know it and, then, we (the rest of the jammers) get the opportunity to make music with these professionals.

**NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE:** Donation jugs have been well received.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

**Placeholders for Festival Tables:** Tony Bachler will bring the placeholders in to finish decorating at the next meeting.

**NWWSMS Logo:** The new logo is being digitized by Trophies2Go in Renton. They will also be producing the 2019 medallions for our Hall of Fame Inductees.

**Request to Hold Moment of Remembrance at the July Showcase:** Lori Hanson and Tony Bachler have developed a simple ceremony and submitted it for approval. A list of names was published in the newsletter for review. A revised list will be posted in the June newsletter.

#### **New Business:**

**Opportunity for a 4th Sunday Western Swing Jam at the Everett Eagles:** Tony Bachler reporting. Discussion.

**Enumclaw 4th of July Parade:** Once again, the NWWSMS hopes to be participating in Enumclaw's 4th of July parade. If you are interested and available as a musician or to distribute festival information along the parade route, please contact Jeanne Yearian.

The meeting's minutes were read and approved by the Board members present. Motion passed to adjourn at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Yearian,  
Secretary

**Join Us as We Celebrate the Life of Lou Bischoff**

**On June 9 join your western swing family**

**From 1 to 5 pm at the Lynnwood Eagles Featuring**

**Steel Country with guest Paul Cooper**

19223 Hwy 99  
(Three Blocks North of 196th Street)

**Come for free dance lessons from 12 to 12:45, taught by MaryLee Lykes**

**President's Corner**



Jeanne Yearian

Please note Lou's family will be holding a Celebration of Life on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM – Midnight, at the Pine Lake Community Club, 21333 SE 20th St, Sammamish, WA 98075. We are invited. Additional information can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

There is so much about Lou's life to honor, remember and celebrate. I hope to see you there.

We were very pleased to have **The Old Stokers** back with us to host our Mothers' Day Showcase. By closing time, we two-stepped out the door - just couldn't help ourselves!

Our thanks to Paul Cooper and **Steel Country** for hosting this month's showcase. At 3:15, we will hold a time of remembrance for those present to share their fondest memory of Lou. Afterwards, the jam portion of the program begins. (I hope to play some of Lou's favorites.) If you would like to join the jam band on stage for a few songs, be sure to sign up at the information table.

See you on the dance floor!  
(I'll be the one with the camera.)  
JY

**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! Jeanne Yearian & Toby Hanson hosting. Call 425-432-7888 for additional information.

**Southern Comfort**. For bookings or schedule updates call Shelley at (206) 235-0530. Check out The Southern Comfort Band's current activities on Facebook.

**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](http://www.barndoorslammers.com).

**Mike Faast and Jangles**. For information on upcoming play dates, check their website at: [www.janglesband.com](http://www.janglesband.com)

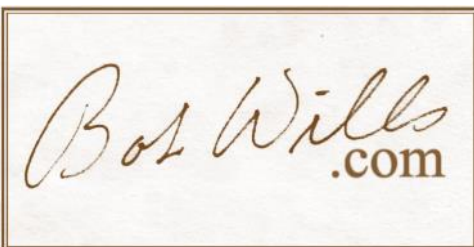
**Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners**. Dance Hall Music by **The Sundowners**, the 4th Sunday of every month (beginning Jan. 27, 2019) 1:30-4:30pm at Swede Hall, Rochester, Wash. Visit their website for information on additional play dates: [www.thesundownersband.com](http://www.thesundownersband.com)

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

**"WHEREAS, Born and bred in Texas, western swing is a musical melting pot that represents the diverse groups that have contributed to the growth and prosperity of our state and the distinctive way of life that has flourished here, and it is indeed a fitting symbol for the rich cultural heritage that is shared by all Texans; now, therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate western swing as the official State Music of Texas."**

**June 17, 2011**



**Free Western Swing workshops in Weiser, Idaho, June 12 - 16**

Fiddler Paul Anastasio and his friends will be offering free western swing workshops in Weiser, Idaho, beginning five days prior to the start of the National Old-Time Fiddlers' Contest. From Wednesday, June 12th through Sunday, June 16th, 2019, the workshops will be held each day from 1 to 3 PM in the camping area known as Stickerville, behind the Intermountain Institute. They will take place in a covered area known as Jimmy's trailer.

The workshops themselves are completely free. Donations will be accepted to support the Friends of the Fiddle, the non-profit organization that owns Stickerville, to assist



Paul Anastasio

them with the costs of maintaining the camping area.

Vocalists and players of all instruments and of all levels of ability are welcome. CDs and sheet music will be provided. We'll be delighted to work with both ear players and note readers. We'll learn some great tunes from Bob Wills, Cliff Bruner, Milton Brown and other western swing greats. We'll explore harmonization, improvisation and arranging. These workshops are always a lot of fun. Please join us in Weiser!

**MEMBERSHIP REMINDER:** (To use PayPal or your credit card go to our website or click on this link:)

**Become a member, renew or donate on-line or by mail.**

**Mail your check to: [NWWSMS, PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082.](mailto:NWWSMS@NWWSMS.com)**



## Cherishing the Memories

### NWWSMS JULY 14

#### CELEBRATION OF LIFE SHOWCASE

At 3:15 PM, during the NWWSMS July Showcase, we will pause the music and dancing to remember those who have passed on since last July.

Following is the list we have compiled of those to be honored. Please let us know before June 30 if there is someone we should add to the list. Contact either Jeanne Yearian (jeanneyearian@yahoo.com) or Lori Hanson (l.hanson@pknw.org).

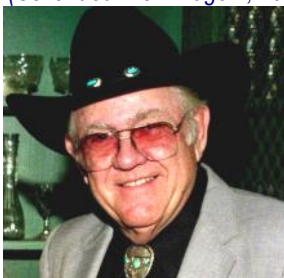
Lori Hanson and Tony Bachler have planned a simple, thoughtful ceremony for the occasion. If you submit a name, you can choose whether or not you would like to participate in the ceremony.

Here is the list of those who will be honored at this time (in alphabetical order by last name):

Merle Anderson  
Richard Beard  
Lou Bischoff  
Charles "Edd" Burnett  
Tommy Christianson  
Norma Beth Gilbert  
Shirley Gohr  
Bonnie Guitar (Tutmarc)  
Eddie Darrell Haddock  
Marty Hill  
Ed Hines  
Lane Johnson  
Dayna Wills Kelley  
Chuck Linscott  
Stuart Linscott  
Harvey Nelson  
Tom Nelson  
Jennie Quartuccio  
Leon Rausch  
Herb Remington  
Alice Striegel  
Glenn Tarver  
Don Wagonen  
Bobby Wynne

The final listing will be available at the July showcase. JY

(Continued From Page 1, Leon Rausch . . .)



Leon Rausch at a 1997 concert  
Photo by: Spencer D. Cook FW

Ft. Worth according to the Texas Playboys.

Born in Billings, Missouri, on October 27th, 1927, Leon Rausch was raised in the Show Me State and started singing and playing guitar at local dances with his father as a small child. Rausch performed throughout high school until he joined the military like many of his generation. After leaving the service, he played with multiple local bands in the Missouri area until eventually moving to Tulsa in 1955 to pursue his Western Swing career. It was a 1956 appearance on The Louisiana Hayride that is given credit for launching Leon Rausch's career in earnest, and on St. Patrick's Day 1958, he officially joined Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys as the lead vocalist, replacing Glynn Duncan, who had replaced his brother Tommy Duncan.

Leon Rausch played in the Texas Playboys throughout the 60's until briefly joining the band of Johnnie Lee Wills, and then forming his own group called the New Texas Playboys based out of Ft. Worth. Rausch would later reunite with Bob Wills in 1973 after the ailing country legend contacted him about making a final record called *For The Last Time*. When Bob Wills died in 1975, Leon Rausch took over as the leader of the legendary Texas Playboys.

Under the leadership of Leon Rausch, the Texas Playboys helped keep the legacy of Western Swing alive, continuing to record albums and perform, including a famous appearance on Austin City Limits. As styles changed, attention to the legendary outfit waned, but Rausch was there to play the official last show of the band at the Will Rogers Auditorium in Ft. Worth, Texas, on November 16th, 1986. The torch he carried for Western Swing—which the Texas Legislature designated the official "State Music of Texas" in 2011—continues to light the way for newer generations of musicians, including Asleep at the Wheel, Dale Watson, and George Strait's Ace in the Hole Band.

(Editor's Note: Our sincere thanks to the news sources that provided excerpts for this historical background, including Michael Corcoran with Texas Highways and Robert Huston, writing for [savingcountrymusic.com](http://savingcountrymusic.com).)

## Sharing the Journey

### With Well Wishes and Prayers

Graham Lees	JC McCormick
Eleanor Ford	Larry Broad
Jimmy Queen & the Jazzabillies	Gloria Schindler
Charlotte Tomlinson	Connie McMahon
Kevin Healy	Ed Hynes
Joe Dwyer	Betty Reeves
Betty Hasting	Paul Cooper
Arlene Stuth	Judy Collender
Geno Burbank	Wanda Ramos Love
Greta Larson	Chuck Robbins
Fern Hooper	Jim Sanderson
Jody Meredith	Keith Holter
Ken Jones	Jim Wallace
Robert LaClaire	Kathie Wallace
Shorty Joe Quartuccio	Red Gillean
	Cindy De Leon
	Web Tipton
	Vi & Jay Anderson

### Condolences

To Ed Bischoff, family and large community of friends across the United States on the loss of his wife and our dear friend, Lou.

To Patricia Johnson, family and the large community of friends at the Cahoots Social Club, Canadian, OK, on the loss of her husband, Lane.

To Pauline Springer, family and the large community of friends on the loss of her dear companion, Tommy Nelson.

To Denise McCravey, family and friends on the loss of her mother, Joyce.

*A friend is someone who  
knows the song in your heart  
And can sing it back to you  
When you have forgotten the words.*

-Author Unknown-

Did we miss someone or do you know of someone who should be included in the next **Sharing the Journey** report? Please let us know.

Contact a member of the Board (see page 2) or the editor of the newsletter (see page 2).

## Cherishing the Memories

### Mayme Lou Bischoff

Mayme Lou Bischoff was born on January 25, 1930 in Renton, WA and passed away on May 29, 2019.

Born in Renton, WA, and raised at Pine Lake, WA, Lou began playing piano at the age of nine. Classical music wasn't her thing so she changed teachers and began learning big band music at the age of 12. She learned every song available at that time and joined a small group of musicians who performed at school functions. They formed a teen-age club and found themselves playing at various club get-togethers.

After Lou married and had a family, the most she did was to play the radio for a few years. She went into the nursing profession in the 60s and found herself joining a group of friends from work who would club hop. That is where she met Bill Garner, Dick Heil, Rusty Draper and many others who were entertaining locally. They got her hooked on



**Mayme Lou Bischoff**  
*The First Lady of  
NorthWest Western Swing*

Western Swing. In the 70s Bobby MacAvoy, Bill Garner and Bill Brooker entertained in the lounge where Lou was employed. They had the Swing beat and it didn't take long for that to impact her life. They soon became Lou's mentors.

When the Western Swing Society was formed in 1983, Lou was working weekends and unable to attend their functions. But, she kept in touch through friendship and newsletters. After her first visit to a showcase in Kirkland, she knew the Western Swing Society organization was where she found a place in music.

At Lou's first POWS (Pioneers of Western Swing Festival) in 1993, she was asked to be a hostess. There she met Truitt Cunningham,

Dean McKinney Moore, Bobby Koefer and Smokey Rogers, the "Idols" she had heard so much about. The following year, Lou was elected Secretary of the Seattle Western Swing Music Society. She held that office or that of board member until she was elected President in 2001. She held the office of President through 2008. After a brief absence, Lou joined the Board again in 2012, retiring in 2018.

Lou has been honored with many awards over the years, including the NWWSMS' Steve Vaughn Founder's Award in 1998. In 2005, Lou was honored to be inducted into the Kansas Western Swing Music Society Hall of Fame as well as Seattle's Western Swing Music Society (now the NWWSMS) and the Western Swing Music Society of Sacramento.

She and her husband, Ed, have traveled many thousands of miles to promote and support the Western Swing style of music. On one of their trips to Oklahoma, she helped provide the inspiration and support for the formation of the largest western swing music society of them all, the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest.

Lou is survived by her devoted husband, Ed, and an incredible community of family and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM – Midnight, at the Pine Lake Community Club, 21333 SE 20th St, Sammamish, WA 98075. Friends are welcome to bring a desert for the table. Finger foods will be available.

Musicians, after the scheduled program and visitation, the hall will be ready for music and sharing the memories that will keep Lou alive forever in our hearts. It's our hope we will find peace and healing by continuing to play and perform the music Lou helped weave into the fabric of the American experience.

*(Editor's note: on page 6 is a sampling of the expressions of sympathy we have received through Facebook and your e-mails.)*



*Ed and Lou Bischoff preparing to open the 2015 NWWSMS Western Swing Music Festival & Hall of Fame Celebration held at the Auburn Eagles in Auburn, WA.*

*Both Lou and Ed never missed an opportunity to show their support of our veterans and first responders, having first-hand knowledge of the sacrifices made to keep our country and communities safe and free.*

*In her memory, we are offering free admission to this year's festival, along with a beverage and a meal, to our Community Heroes, police, fire and emergency medical services personnel who display ID at the door. The festival takes place at the Field House in Enumclaw, August 8-11.*



*Pictured above: Lou Bischoff, at the beginning of the 2017 Sacramento Hall of Fame, displaying just a few of her trademark collages. Each was earmarked as a gift for a certain 'someone,' made especially with them in mind.*

*The very first camera she received as a child sparked a passion for photography that persisted until the end of her life. When it became difficult to take the photos herself, she enlisted the aid of her team of photographers to help. (Two of her favorite photogs were the late Rus Davis and Dennis Ford). Her visual histories of special events will be treasured.*



## Western Swing Forum

From e-mail & Facebook

This is just a sampling of the outpouring of sympathy received.

My heart is heavy today to hear the sad news that the "First Lady of Western Swing of the Northwest", Lou Bischoff, passed away today! She, along with all the wonderful folks associated with the NWWSMS have been so very gracious to me. I was blessed to have been able to attend two of the annual Western Swing Festivals there in Washington and make so many wonderful new friends there. What a treat it was for Bobby Flores and the band to be able to perform at one of these events.



My prayers and thoughts go out to Ed Bischoff and the rest of their family, as well as the many friends within their music family. Thank you so much Jeanne Yearian for keeping us all informed...Love you my sweet friend!  
Judy Yeley Rountree

Billy Bowles (HOF 2014) I am so saddened by this news. Lou and Ed were so Welcoming to me in 2014 @ The NWWSMS Hall of Fame. She and I both got a kick out of her wanting to take pictures of me and every lady I Danced with every one there was quickly to be life long family & friends. She will always live on in our hearts.

Tommy Thomsen Jeanne had said awhile back that she was declining and it was the time to let her know you love her...We all did.... I have all my photo collages she loved to do... all the special thank you certificates for participating. She and Ed even made it to the Legends of Western Swing in Texas...  
God Bless,

Nick Dumas I am so saddened by this news. Lou was a very special woman and one of the sweetest people on Earth. I'm glad I knew her. She was a big part of my childhood and a huge supporter of my life growing up as a musician! You will be greatly missed! Rest in peace my friend.

Laura Burleson Fouke & Joe Baker I am so sorry to hear this. The first time I met her she acted like she had known me forever. Please give Ed a big hug from Joe and me. She will definitely be missed.

Cheryl Heitman Kestle Lou and Ed bought my parents house next door to mine. We became fast friends when on her first day she locked herself out and she came to see if I had a key...and I did. We had so many wonderful talks over the last 20 years. Many laughs and many tears. She felt like another Mother to me especially as she let me grieve the death of my Mom. I have a whole in my heart. I miss hearing their summertime music parties. They sure knew how to have fun. You are at peace now Lou and I will love you forever.

Beryl Shawley My heart goes out to Lou's family. We were very close for many years and I have and will miss her greatly as she was such a special friend. Rest In Peace sweet lady.

Sharon Capps Lou. ....keep those pearly gates open for the rest of us so we can hear our music ♪ a playing when we come thorough so we can keep the music still going. Loved you and the dry humor. Bob is still wondering what he is to do with the clothes pins!

So sorry to hear that Lou passed. From the tone of your previous email, I assumed that her time with us was coming to an end. Even though I am not able to attend Second Sundays in Lynnwood, the NWWSMS has become a musical home for me, and Lou no doubt played a big role in allowing that to happen.

The one thing that we all have in common is the end of life. Some of us leave a legacy of helping and supporting others, while others focus more on themselves. Lou was definitely of the first group and a lot of people, including Sue and I, were the beneficiaries of her work in our music society.

May Lou Rest In Peace - Jim & Sue Hollinger

Stunned to hear of this loss. Lou was the first person I met in the society where I was welcomed with open arms. I've saved the letters she sent and love the collages she made. She will be sorely missed.

Suze Spencer

Beth Willingham Oh no talked to her not long ago. She was absolutely adorable. She kept in touch all the time. She nominated Ray and I to the WSMSS Hall of Fame. What an inspiration to us all. God bless Ed and the family.

Sharon Smith So very sad to hear this. Knew her many many years. Wonderful memories of her and Ed and the many years of Western Swing. She was a great lady and her legacy will continue....Thanks for the memories dear friend. They will be treasured forever.

So sorry to hear that such a Lovely Lady has left us! I first met Lou & Ed many years ago at the Legends of Western Swing festival. We met several times over the years and always kept in touch. I promised Lou that I would come over to the NWWSMS Festival, which my wife Marlene and I did in 2014. Lou was so thrilled that we had finally made it to the festival. Lou presented me with the certificate of Special Recognition Award for my passion and inclusion of Western Swing music in my radio shows The Western Hour. I was also inducted into the NWWSMS Hall of Fame in 2017 when Lou accepted the Award on my behalf as I was unable to travel to the USA for the event. Lou also loved the many picture post cards we sent her from our vacations around the UK. Had a lovely card from Lou just a few weeks ago. Loved the lady, will miss her cards and letters. All our thoughts are with Ed at this sad occasion. Such a lovely, quiet and unassuming gentleman!!!

Graham Lees, English Radio DJ and Music Journalist.

Thanks for passing along the news of Lou's passing. I had known her for over twenty years going back to my days in Mended Heart. She was always such a sweet person. I have stacks of pictures that she took of me over the years of playing at NWWSMS events. She was a wonderful, warm-hearted person who always made everyone feel welcome. There's a special place for her in Heaven tonight.

Toby Hanson

We are so sorry to hear of the loss of Lou. What a sweetheart!! We and the TSGA (Texas Steel Guitar Association) grieve with you. We will keep Ed and all of you in our prayers.

Blessings!

Albert and Debbie Talley

Oh Jeanne thank you so much for letting us know. I am so very sorry to hear this. She was such a sweetheart. I was getting a card ready to send to her and now I know why... I just wish she could have known that I was still thinking about her. Keep us posted. The world has lost such a bright spirit that heaven is a sweeter place because of her presence today.

Rhonda Craig

**NWWSMS Hall of Fame  
2019 Inductees**

Tony Bachler - Washington  
 Gary Blodgett - California  
 Greg Gibbs - Texas  
 Ray Hadachek - Washington  
 Rob Loren - Kansas  
 Mike Moore - Oklahoma  
 Tom Phelps - California  
 Hiram Posey - Tennessee  
 Bob Richards - California  
 Phil Speer - California  
 Suze Spencer - Washington

**Posthumous Inductees**

Dewey Groom - Texas  
 Gary Hadachek - Washington

**Special Recognition**

Robert Waterhouse - Oregon



**NWWSMS**

NorthWest Western Swing Music Society

Preserving, Promoting & Performing  
 Western Swing Music Since 1983

**Celebrating 36 Years!**

The Northwest Western Swing Music Society's

**29th Annual**

**WESTERN SWING MUSIC  
 FESTIVAL &  
 "HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION"**

**August 8 - 11, 2019**

At the Enumclaw Expo Center Field House (Hwy 410) - Enumclaw, WA. With Its Beautiful, Big Dance Floor - Four Days of Great Music.

*A family event. Everyone welcome! Continuing the tradition, the Thursday night (August 8) meet & greet potluck followed by the dance/jam for our out of town guests is always free!*

**MOTELS SPONSORING THE 2019 NWWSMS  
 WESTERN SWING FESTIVAL/HALL OF FAME,  
 AUGUST 8-11**

To receive special prices listed below  
 Call and ask for the 'Western Swing Music Festival' rates

**Rodeway Inn** Next door to the Festival location at  
 1334 Roosevelt Ave. E (Hwy 410), Enumclaw, WA 98022  
 Western Swing rate . . . \$ 99.00 for singles with queen bed  
 \$109.00 for two beds  
**Phone: 360-825-1626**

Amenities: Free wireless high-speed Internet access, Outdoor heated pool. Refrigerator, microwave and coffeemaker in each room.

**Econo Lodge Buckley** Located at 29405 State Route 410 E,  
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*Make your motel reservations as soon as possible! Tourist season is at its height. Rooms are limited.*

**RV & Tent Camping Available**

Call for festival pricing and information: 360-226-3493

**Festival Sponsorship Update for June:**

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**Thank you for your support.**

Watch for updates with the latest information on this year's festival and western swing music camp on our website at:  
[www.nwwsms.com](http://www.nwwsms.com)

and on Facebook please 'like' the:  
 Northwest Western Swing Music Society

# HAIL THE HALLS

## TEXAS DANCE HALLS STAND AS MONUMENTS TO HISTORY AND COMMUNITY

BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

FEBRUARY 2019, TEXAS CO-OP POWER E-MAGAZINE, an on-line community for members of Texas Electric Cooperatives

Imagine this scene in a Texas dance hall: A band belts out a tune while couples of all ages spin one another around a hardwood floor. Some steal kisses or show off fancy twirls. A little girl, balanced atop her granddaddy's boots, sways in time. Kids knee-high to a grasshopper race around the floor, and no one fusses. At rustic tables, friends and families chat, sip drinks and wave at dancers gliding past. A short reach away, babies and toddlers snooze on blankets spread across the floor.

The folksy scene could describe a dance hosted last month at [Anhalt Hall](#) in Spring Branch or one held in the 1890s at [Braun Hall](#) in northwest San Antonio.

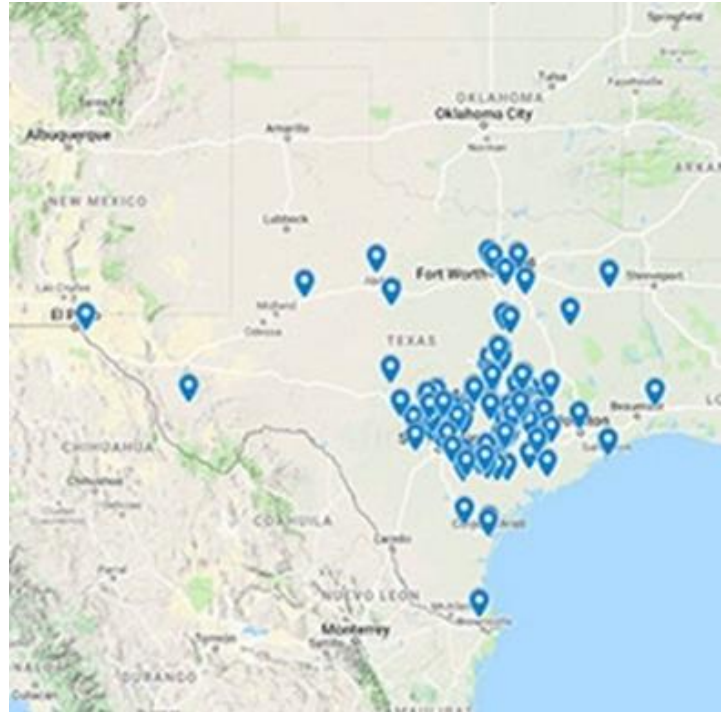
"Dance halls are magical because their culture hasn't changed since the 1870s, when the first ones were built," says Patrick Sparks, a structural engineer and historic preservationist based in San Antonio. "Dancing's as fundamental to Texas as the Alamo, cowboys, longhorns and oil."

More than 1,000 dance halls built by German, Czech, Polish and a few Swiss immigrants once dotted parts of Texas. In the mid-19th century, the weary newcomers stepped off ships in Texas ports, most often Galveston or Indianola, on their way to settle as far west as the Hill Country.

Living conditions were harsh, and yet these isolated settlers worked hard to establish their unique way of life. To provide their friends and neighbors a place to meet, discuss business, share barbecue dinners and dance, they constructed spacious halls. Each building incorporated the skills of its artisan community, reflecting its customs and musical tastes.



*Twin Sisters Dance Hall, Blanco, TX*



### Above: Map of Dance Halls Across Texas

Our thanks to [Texas Co-Op Power](#) magazine

Architecture varied from simple, metal-sided barns with window flaps, such as those of [Kendalia Halle](#), to round halls with a center support column, such as [Bellville Turnverein Pavilion](#).

As meeting places, the buildings served the primary interests of their founders. Progress (*fortschritt*) and shooting club (*schützen verein*) members built the whitewashed [Nordheim Shooting Club Dance Hall](#). German businessmen built an ornate dancing pavilion called the [Garten Verein](#) (garden club) for Galveston's German community. Near Burton, one of many German gymnastic clubs (*turn vereins*) built the [La Bahia Turn Verein Hall](#). A German singing society (*gesangverein*) founded the [Millheim Harmonic Harmonie Verein Hall](#) in Sealy.

In Czech communities, polka dancers kept floors hopping at halls built by two fraternal orders: the SPJST (Fayetteville's SPJST Hall No. 1) and KJT (Ammannsville's KJT Hall). Most of the other halls were built by religious or agricultural organizations, and individuals built a few. One example is [Sefcik Hall](#) in Seaton, a two-story clapboard building built in 1923 by Tom Sefcik. His daughter Alice Sefcik Sulak, now in her 80s, still oversees Sunday night dances on the second floor.

Each distinct, the buildings had one common feature: an expansive wooden floor that welcomed families. "Then and now, that's what makes a true Texas dance hall," says Deb Fleming, executive director of [Texas Dance Hall Preservation](#) in Austin. "Its largest architectural feature must be the dance floor, and it must also allow children, unlike a saloon or honky tonk."

(... Continued from Page 12)



## *Photo Highlights from the May Showcase*

*Come by and let us overwhelm you with hospitality and the sounds of Western Swing music . . . made in America!*



*Hope to see everyone at the June Showcase.  
Save a smile for the camera!*



**Album:**  
Ridin'  
Ropin' &  
Rounders

## Album Reviews

By Mike Gross KSEY - FM  
[www.swinginwest.com](http://www.swinginwest.com) Seymour, TX

**Artist:**  
Rusted Spurs West



Mike Gross

*Buckle Polishing Song*. Then there are the Bob Wills Western Swing standards, Cindy Walker's *Sugar Moon* and the Wills memory *Old Fashioned Love*. From Al Jolson the group borrows the pop standard *Avalon* and then there is Paul Westmoreland's Western Swing standard *Detour*, from Spade Cooley, Elton Britt, Wesley Tuttle and so many others. The remaining tune, *Are You Teasing Me* is from the Louvin Brothers and country music.

This album is available for \$15 (free shipping) from Bob Denoncourt- [dvdob@denonco.net](mailto:dvdob@denonco.net) or 520-431-7180

Mike Gross, KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX & KTNK-AM, Lompoc, CA and [www.swinginwest.com](http://www.swinginwest.com)

Here is another very enjoyable new CD that features 14 varied tunes from multiple fields of music by three talented musicians, all heard on vocal. Tex Hamel plays acoustic and lap steel guitar. Miz Patti Hamel is heard playing accordion and Bob (Slim) Denoncourt plays bass. They are joined by Alvin Blaine also playing lap steel as well as Dobro and guitar and Nick Coventry playing fiddle.

The opening song is from Merl Lindsay and his Oklahoma Night Riders and so many others, *Plain Talkin' Man From the West*. That is followed by a wonderful version of the Vince Gill memory, *New Star Across Texas*. Western gems include Bob Nolan's magnificent *Cool Water* from the Sons of the Pioneers, the western classics, *Along the Navajo Trail*, *Pecos Bill*, *Red River Valley*, Stan Jones' *Ghost Riders in the Sky* and *My Ropin' Days are Done*. The group also does a new song, *Belt*

### Mike's Top 10 for June 2019

**Songs:**

1. In the Middle of the Song - Western Swing Authority with Carolyn Martin
2. Wild Texas Rose - Jimmy Burson
3. Swing Time Baby - Steel Horse Swing
4. I'm Back In Texas- Emily George
5. Rainbow Song - Jimmy Burson
6. King of the Blues - Western Caravan
7. Stardust Ballroom - Nancy Elliott
8. Texas When It Swings - Terry Brown (THB)
9. Lone Lonesome Moon - Clint Bradley (Bluelight)
10. Manhattan - Judy James

**Albums:**

1. Lone Star Dust - Jimmy Burson
2. Swing Time Baby - Steel Horse Swing
3. Sactown Playboys - Sactown Playboys
4. Swing Set - Lee Lee Robert (Musikode)
5. Time Changes Everything - Leon Rausch
6. Big Deal - The Western Swing Authority
7. Timeless Treasures for a Living Legend - Tommy Thomsen
8. Honky Tonk - Western Caravan
9. Shadows of What Used To Be - Emily George
10. Ridin' Ropin' & Rounders - Rusted Spurs West

## NWWSMS Application for Membership

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

## Highlights from the May Showcase

The thought, "What would Lou do?" swept over me as **The Old Stokers** finished their excellent set.



Rosie Speck—Oldest Mother



Lisa Cole—Youngest Mother



Patty Gelatti - Mother to the most children

Do you remember Lou's Mother's Day showcase extravaganzas? If there was anything Lou cherished more than our service men and women it was mothers - whether their children are biological, adopted, fostered, blended - Lou admired all the women who took on the role of motherhood in its many forms. Perhaps this is why so many of us referred to her as 'Mama Lou.' Lou seemed to understand the sacrifice and emotional cost involved, for, I believe, at one time or another, she had been a mother in most of these ways herself.

The two hours passed so quickly. Before I knew it, it was time to recognize and present our Mothers Day Recognition Awards. Sharon Capps brought boxes of chocolates to each of our Special Mothers: the oldest mother at the showcase was Rosie Speck, age 94; the youngest mother was Lisa Cole, Lois Haddock's daughter, age 52; and the lady who raised the most children was foster mother Patty Gelatti, who, over the years, opened her home to 22 children.

As **The Old Stokers** were leaving the stage, we began setting up for the afternoon jam. Once again, the quality of the jammers along with the back-up band, kept the hall full of smiling, happy people waiting for the music to begin again.

Our sincere thanks to the Lynnwood Eagles and staff for all of their attention and hard work. Remember, they are all volunteers and appreciate your kindness and generosity. Be sure to look over their new menu. They have several new food items at very reasonable prices. You'll want to come HUNGRY! The welcoming atmosphere the Eagles provide helps make our showcases a success!

See you this Sunday, June 9, when we will pay a special tribute to Lou Bischoff, from 1 to 5. The Host Band, **Steel Country**, was one of her favorites. Come on out and you'll see why! Bring someone special for a turn around the dance floor.

In closing, please remember Ed Bischoff in your thoughts and prayers. Lou's daughter, Connie Faast, has been by their side through this terribly difficult period. Please remember her and her family as well. Information on the Celebration of Life planned for Lou can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. JY



**ENUMCLAW JAM REPORT:** Our May jam was a real treat. Although Toby was spending Easter Sunday with his family, Lyle Schaefer, who partnered with Toby on their CD, *The Art of the Duet*, joined us! Once again, I had the camera . . . but never took it out of the case. So you'll have to take my word for it when I tell you how much fun we had! Each jam is so different, depending upon the musicians who come by. Our goal is to be able to showcase at least one experienced western swing musician each month. In June we hope to have Chet Hasting and Toby Hanson returning. It's true!!! It's like a musician's day spa - refresh, revitalize and restore your musical energy! Come on out and try it. We'll be meeting on Sunday, June 16, from 2 to 5. JY

## The Old Stokers NWWSMS Showcase Band for May 2019

Pictured from the top: Phil Mitchell,  
Neal Jeans, Randy Miskulin,  
Shelley McNaughton &  
Steve Carter

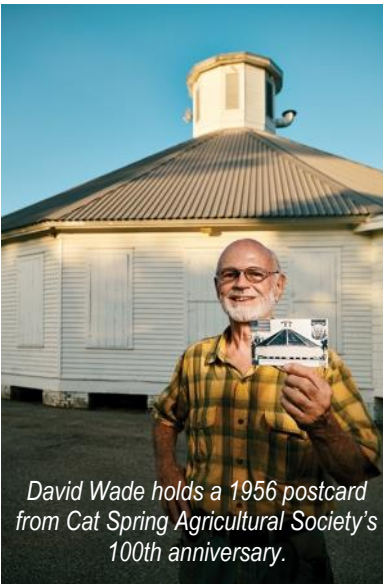


(. . . Continued from Page 8, Hail the Halls)

Fleming, a San Antonio native who did not grow up around Texas dance halls, discovered her ancestral roots because of one. In 2007, she visited Panna Maria, considered the nation's oldest Polish settlement, established in 1854, to research the community's historic hall. At the visitors center, a local woman with a laptop offered to print out Fleming's genealogy. Her family tree traced back to Johann Rzeppa, Flemings' great-great-grandfather and one of Panna Maria's original settlers.

"I had no idea about our family's connection to Panna Maria," says Fleming, a Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative member. "Neither did my father. The experience made me wonder how many other Texans have their own family connection to a Texas dance hall and don't even know it."

Thanks to dance halls, Texas music is known worldwide. Without them, those early brass, string and accordion bands wouldn't have birthed such genres as western swing, country or conjunto. Eventually, several bands made a good living, traveling from one dance hall to the next. Bob Wills, Willie Nelson, Hank Williams and Ray Benson are among those who got their starts in dance halls.



David Wade holds a 1956 postcard from Cat Spring Agricultural Society's 100th anniversary.

Fewer than 400 halls survive in Texas. Of those, about 25 percent stand abandoned, such as Gillespie County's [Cherry Springs Dance Hall](#), where Elvis Presley, Nat King Cole and Patsy Cline performed. Or they're used for storage.

In 2008, [Preservation Texas](#) collectively identified all Texas dance halls as endangered places worthy of protection as architectural, historical and cultural landmarks. The nonprofit advocacy group cited neglect, suburban development, highway

projects, shrinking grassroots support and lack of public awareness as threats to dance hall survival.

The designation came a year after Sparks, along with historic preservationist Stephanie McDougal and the late Texas music historian Steve Dean, founded the nonprofit Texas Dance Hall Preservation. Since its start, the volunteer group has worked to inventory existing halls, spread the word about their historical importance and partner with owners to keep them afloat.

Dean's advocacy for dance halls ran deep. In 2014, he asked via social media whether someone could make a documentary about them. Filmmaker Erik McCowan of Rosanky responded.

"First we visited the [Round Top Schützen Verein](#)'s annual shooting competition that's been held every year since 1873,"

(Continued on page 13 . . .)



## THE NWWSMS 2019 WESTERN SWING MUSIC FESTIVAL

AT THE FIELD HOUSE,  
ENUMCLAW, WA, AUGUST 8-11

★ TICKETS AT THE DOOR: FRI & SAT, \$15.00/DAY  
★ SUNDAY: \$10.00 DANCE CONTEST: \$2.00/PERSON

DISCOUNTED TICKETS ON-LINE AT  
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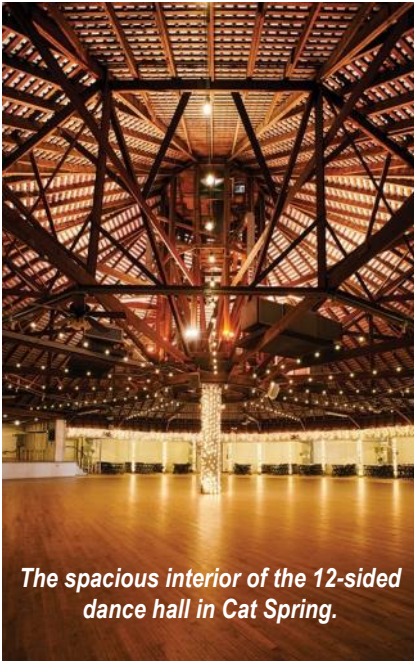
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LUNCH 11:30 - 1:30

DINNER 4:30 - 7:00

BEVERAGES PROVIDED BY THE  
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The spacious interior of the 12-sided dance hall in Cat Spring.

recalls McCowan, a Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative member. "That's when I realized the history of these places runs much deeper than I thought. After Steve and I saw what was left of New Bern Helvetia Hall near Taylor, I knew I had to make a film."

More than three years in the making, *Dance Hall Days* shares the down-home stories of 56 classic halls. Some stand forgotten, such as Cistern Hall in Cistern and Kreuzberg Shooting Club Hall near

Boerne. Fire destroyed several, including the Fredericksburg Social Turn Verein Hall in 2016 (members voted to rebuild). Siblings restored their family's Park Hall (now called *Hruska's at Park*) near Fayetteville, and *Renck Hall* in Warrenton hosts antique sales. But dancing still ranks No. 1 at many others, including the *Albert Dance Hall* in Albert and *Schroeder Hall* in Goliad.

Throughout the 82-minute film, Dean steps in and out of halls, sharing his hopes and wisdom. Sadly, he died April 28, 2018, the day after *Dance Hall Days* won Best Texas Film at the *Hill Country Film Festival* in Fredericksburg.

Rich stories captured by McCowan's film abound within the walls of Texas dance halls. "These places live and breathe the stories of Texas," Fleming says. "They're melting pots of our state's culture. Every time we lose one, we lose a piece of Texas history."

*Note: In an effort to save halls, Austin singer Ray Benson and his band, Asleep at the Wheel, stage monthly tours with stops at Twin Sisters and a handful of others. Erik McCowan, a dance hall aficionado, hosts day-long "Dance Hall Road Trip" tours and last year released "Dance Hall Days," a documentary about the halls.*

One Saturday, his tour stopped at what German settlers dubbed Katzenquelle, or Wildcat Spring. The local Turn Verein Hall — which doubled as a gym - closed in the 1940s, but the community renovated another nearby venue, the Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall.

James Herring recently walked through the 12-sided building, explaining how he helped restore the 14-foot pine beams supporting the massive cupola built in 1902. Herring, 81, director of the agricultural society, grew up speaking German until he started school. A hand-painted wooden sign warns visitors in German,

**The wearing of the hat & the spurs, the smoking & the chewing is in this hall forbidden.**

"The ladies had these big hoop dresses and the spurs would catch on them," said Herbert Kollatschny, 82, who grew up dancing at the hall. "And the hat — they used to carry six-shooters under them," Herring added.



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Suze Spencer



Hiram Posey



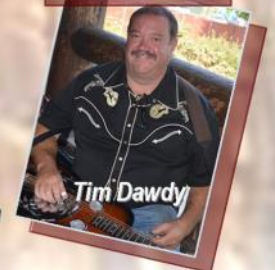
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Daron Brown



Judy Hayes



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## Wyn on . . .

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### June 2019 Playlist for "Wyn on Tuesday"

1. *I Walk Alone*, Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys
2. *Rusted Spurs West*, New Star Across Texas
3. *Travelin' In My Boots*, Kristyn Harris
4. *Darlin' You're Stronger Than Me*, Jody Nix
5. *Every Day Away from You Sweetheart*, The Swing Billies
6. *Rusted Spurs West*, My Ropin' Days Are Done
7. *Broken Hearts*, Chuck Cusimano
8. *Faded Love*, Ray Tombs
9. *Just Enough Rope*, Rick Trevino
10. *El Paso*, Olivia Morgayne, Kristyn Harris & Hailey Sandoz

**Artists are welcome to send cds to:**

**Wyn Machon  
5 Lowther St.  
Oamaru 9400.  
New Zealand.**

[wynmachon39@gmail.com](mailto:wynmachon39@gmail.com)



## June 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 "Dance Music." Gotta have fiddles, steel guitars, good lyrics and be danceable. Check us out. If you like us, please share with your friends who enjoy this music as well at [www.sansabaradio.com](http://www.sansabaradio.com) 24/7- plus we've added old radio versions of Gunsmoke on Sat. morn at 7am ... and Sundays at 6am and 6pm.

The Time Jumpers - *Empty Rooms*  
Justin Trevino - *Conscience Turn Your Back*  
Rick Trevino - *Another Six-Pack Under*  
Myra Rolen - *Walk Out Backwards*  
Bobby Flores - *Look What Thoughts Will Do*  
Coby Carter - *Fiddlin' Around*  
Jeff Woolsey - *Big Blue Diamond*  
Gary Ash - *Swing Me Back Home*  
Janet Lynn - *Betcha My Heart*  
Leon Rausch - *Route 66*

Artists may send mp3 submissions to  
[production@sansabaradio.com](mailto:production@sansabaradio.com)  
and personal messages to [skeebo@sansabaradio.com](mailto:skeebo@sansabaradio.com)

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Email: rlandreth638@gmail.com

*All Prices Based on Double Occupancy*

\$700 deposit per cabin at time of booking. Final payment due September 20, 2019. 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 of \$188.66 per person 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.

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