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**Volume 32 Issue 12**      **A News Letter For and About Our Members**      **December 2015**

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

**WELCOME THE 2016 BOARD OF THE  
NORTHWEST WESTERN SWING MUSIC SOCIETY**



*Jeanne Yearian  
President*



*Dave Wheeler  
Vice President*



*Sharon Capps  
Treasurer*



*Alice Striegel  
Secretary*



*Lou Bischoff  
Board Member*



*Dave Duchane  
Board Member*



*Shelley McNaughton  
Board Member*



*Jerry Seitz  
Board Member*



*Sharon Smith  
Board Member*

**MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: Renewals for 2016 due in January**



*Add a Smile to Your Holiday Celebrations at the  
Western Swing Showcase: Sunday, December 13  
at the Lynnwood Eagles, Lynnwood, Washington*



**19223 HWY 99 - THREE BLOCKS NORTH OF 196TH STREET ON HWY 99**

**WOOD DANCE FLOOR - NICE SEATING - FAMILIES WELCOME - FOOD AVAILABLE  
LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING: 1:00 - 5:00**

***Featuring Paul Cooper & Pickin' Coop***

*VOTE for your favorite Showcase Band of 2015 ! (See page 6 for details.)*



## Northwest Western Swing Music Society

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

### 2015 Officers and Board Members

**President:** Jerry Seitz

1090 SW Harper Road, Port Orchard, WA 98367  
Phone: 360-895-0632  
Email: [jerryseitz@msn.com](mailto:jerryseitz@msn.com)

**Vice-Pres:** Dave Wheeler

3116-1/2 Tulalip, Everett, WA 98201  
Phone: 425-238-7696  
Email: [dvwHLr862@gmail.com](mailto:dvwHLr862@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Alice Striegel

2708 Mission Beach Hts, Tulalip, WA 98271  
Phone: 360-659-9713  
Email: [alicecedars@msn.com](mailto:alicecedars@msn.com)

**Treasurer:** Sharon Capps

16625-41st Dr. NE, Unit A  
Arlington, WA 98223  
Phone: 425-218-6515  
Email: [ress8shk@comcast.net](mailto:ress8shk@comcast.net)

**Board Members:** Lou Bischoff, Dave DuChane, Patty McConnell, Shelley McNaughton, Jeanne Yearian. **Alternate:** Sharon Smith

**Annual Membership:**

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

**Business Address**

PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082

Visit us on the web at: [www.nwwsms.com](http://www.nwwsms.com)  
to read the newsletter in full color

or

Like us on FACEBOOK at  
Northwest Western Swing Music Society

Contact the editor,  
[jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com), to receive our  
newsletter electronically.

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

Showcase photos by Jeanne Yearian.

## MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

NOVEMBER 8, 2015



**Alice Striegel**  
Secretary

President, Jerry Seitz, called the meeting to order at 10:41 am.

**Present by Verbal Role**

**Call:** Patty McConnell, Shelley McNaughton, Sharon Smith, Alice Striegel, Jeanne Yearian

**Excused:** Lou Bischoff, Sharon Capps, Dave DuChane, Dave Wheeler

**Guest:** Fred Yearian

**Treasurer:** Sharon Capps presented the financial report.

**Bills:** Approved to pay.

**Committee Reports:**

**Newsletter/Website:** Jeanne Yearian reported that she has received inquiries regarding the possibility of paying memberships through PayPal. Shelley McNaughton will investigate this and report back to the Board at the December meeting.

**Membership Committee Report:** Dave Wheeler reported that the NWWSMS now has 202 paid-up members, with 29 new members since January 1, 2015. Updating the membership roster is still ongoing.

**Workshop Report:** Jerry Seitz reported that locations are still being investigated for locations for future workshops.

**New Business:** Sharon Smith will investigate the possibility of the Society applying for a limited not-for-profit gambling license. She will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Motion passed to adjourn at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Striegel, Secretary

## The NWWSMS Newsletter goes digital in January 2016

If you have not already done so, please send us your current e-mail address to continue receiving the newsletter beginning in January 2016.

E-mail [jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com) with your request to be added to the list of e-mail recipients. The newsletter is also available on the website at: [www.nwwsms.com/newsletters.htm](http://www.nwwsms.com/newsletters.htm).

## NOMINATIONS

FOR INDUCTEES INTO THE

## 2016 NWWSMS

## HALL OF FAME

***Now Being Accepted!***

— Those nominated for consideration as Inductees into the 2016 NWWSMS Hall of Fame must have had at least 20 years of Performing, Promoting or Preserving Western Swing Music, but do not have to be members of this or any other Western Swing Society.

— Those making nominations must be current members of the NWWSMS or have been previously inducted into the NWWSMS POWS/ Hall of Fame.

— Mail or e-mail a complete profile of the nominee along with your cover letter, to:

NWWSMS, Nominations Chairman  
c/o Jeanne Yearian  
21221-174th Ave. SE  
Renton, WA 98058-9740  
E-mail: [jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com)

— Deadline for receipt by the Society is March 15, 2016. Those selected will be notified by early May. A picture suitable for publication will be requested at that time.

*Let's give the New Year a Swinging Start*

*at the Lynnwood Eagles*

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

*January 10th with*

*Kristi Nebel and Cowgirl's Dream*

## Prez Sez-

It has been an amazing run as your President of the Northwest Western Swing Music Society.



The last two years have really flown by and now it's time for me to move in a new direction. I am putting all my energy into our new "Western Swing Workshop Program." We did some test runs last year and were very pleased with the interest we received. Now it's time to implement Stage 2 and we hope many of you will help us get this program up and running!

We have certainly accomplished a lot over the past two years, starting with reestablishing our corporate non-profit status with the State of Washington, and our 501 (c)(7) status with the IRS. Our Vice President Dave Wheeler was the main force behind the IRS reestablishment. Dave deserves a huge thank you for all the work it took to accomplish that, but he did not rest on his laurels.

Dave has been working tirelessly for the last two years on creating a meaningful membership roster that will be published by the end of the first quarter of 2016. It will not only be a list of members but will note what instruments they play and other biographical notes on their musical interests. The roster can then be used to find an appropriate musician/vocalist for a band to use on either a temporary or permanent basis.

Dave Duchane established the "Board Band," assembling board members to play when needed for a Showcase or the Hall of Fame.

We cleaned up our bank accounts with Shelly McNaughton leading the way. One of those involved a somewhat 'mysterious' safe deposit box the Society held at the Renton branch of U.S. Bank. Sorry, nothing of value was found inside.

Dave Wheeler took over the post of "Membership Chairman" and streamlined our membership records by creating a "single date" dues date.

Jeannie Yearian has streamlined the distribution of our award winning newsletter by eliminating 90% of the mail outs. This action alone frees up over 60% of our annual budget.

There is no way I can adequately express my gratitude to the officers and board of directors for their total cooperation. We could never have accomplished what we did without all their hard work. That being said; however, without the assistance of Lou Bischoff I would have never got past first base. Her undying encouragement and guidance kept me on the straight and narrow. Thank you so much, Lou, for your love and friendship.

So, as the sun slowly sinks in the west and we prepare for a very soggy winter here in the Northwest, I leave the Presidency in good hands and will continue to assist the officers and board in any way I can. I am very excited and anxious to get the workshop program developed and running smoothly. I have had quite a bit of positive feedback from our friends in the South West. I think maybe we are on to something.

Kindest Regards,  
Jerry Seitz

*Our heartfelt thanks to Kent Harrison and Lane Johnson. The following excerpt was taken from an article written by Kent Harrison, President of the Oklahoma State Fiddlers. It was published in the October 2015 newsletter of the Oklahoma State Fiddlers, Inc.*



"... I would like to comment on the Northwest Western Swing Music Society with headquarters at PO Box 14003, Mill Creek, WA 98082. This is a great Organization that shares membership with The Oklahoma State Fiddlers and the WSMSS with several members of our Organization in their Hall of Fame. They print one of the best newsletters in existence and a friendlier group you will never find. It is a great pleasure to talk to Lou Bischoff. It is like talking to family. Look them up at [www.nwwsms.com](http://www.nwwsms.com) and join a great music Organization. I want to thank Lane Johnson at CAHOOTS for introducing me to that Organization."

*Also, thanks to Lou Bischoff for bringing this to the Editor's attention!*

## 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.*

**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).

**The Oregon Valley Boys.** For information on upcoming play dates, check their website at: [www.oregonvalleyboys.com](http://www.oregonvalleyboys.com).

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

**Lloyd Hooper and the Cascade Ramblers.** Check the calendar at the Sedro-Woolley Legion and/or call Lloyd for additional information on upcoming play dates at: (home) 360-757-0486. (cell) 360-202-6930

**Sharyn Lee and the Sundowners.** Visit their website for information on upcoming play dates: [www.thesundownersband.com](http://www.thesundownersband.com)

**Patty and the Travelin' Four.** Dance to their music on Wednesdays, from 6-9 pm, Auburn, Eagles. Everyone welcome. Food is available. For additional information and play dates, call:

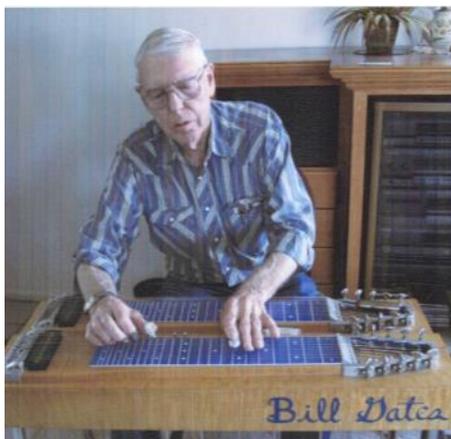
Patty: 253-249-8788

**Ken Fullerton and Country Fever.** Auburn Eagles, every Monday, 6-9 pm. Food available. First Fridays dinner/dance at the Black Diamond Eagles from 5:30 to 9:30.

Call 253-922-7888 or 253-380-2445 for more information.



## Cherishing The Memories



**BJ "Bill" Gates**

(Editor's Note: Our thanks to Rhonda Craig for sending this photo of Bill.)

Bill Gates, 85, of Anacortes, WA, passed away on Monday, November 30, 2015 at his home with his wife Carla at his side.

He was born in San Jon, NM, a son to Robert and Josephine (Snapp) Gates. Bill attended schools in the San Jon area, and after graduation, he enlisted in the U. S. NAVY during the Korean War. In October of 1954, he and June were married and together they lived in New Mexico where their daughter Susan was born.

The family moved to Anacortes, WA, where Bill was employed by Texaco in 1958, and retired on November 30, 1986 after 28 years of service. He was also proud to be a Country Western DJ for KAGT radio station for a number of years. It was during this time, that Bill met Loretta Lynn and they have remained good friends for all these years. He was an accomplished musician and has played the steel guitar for over 70 years. Bill had the privilege to play with his long time good friend, Loretta for six months and also with many other legendary stars such as Buck Owens, Roy Clark and Little Jimmy Dickens.

He was very active in Western Swing Societies and proud to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in the Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest and the Northwest Western Swing Music Society.

To know Bill was to love him, and everyone did. He was a true gentleman and

friend. He never met a stranger, they were just someone he did not know well yet, but through chatting and friendliness, that could be remedied. Bill always went out of his way to make someone feel welcomed. He was a humble man with a wonderful sense of humor, and he was known far and wide for not only his musical abilities, but his dancing. He loved Western Swing dancing, especially the Waltzes, Two Step and he was always in demand by all the women at the dances. Bill loved the Lord, and lived it well. He was proud to be an American and loved our country.

Bill leaves behind his loving wife Carla, daughter Susan and grandson Spencer; step children, step grandchildren, and step great grandchildren, sister Leona Faye, brother Bennie, nieces and nephews, and many good friends from Texaco, the American Legion of Sedro-Woolley, the Eagles of Anacortes, Western Swing friends and wonderful caring neighbors. He loved them all and was loved by all. He will be greatly missed.

Memorials in Bill's name may be made to American Legion of Sedro-Woolley and the Gentry House in Anacortes.

A Memorial Service with Military Honors for Bill will be held at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, December 10, 2015, at Evans Funeral Chapel with a reception to follow. Arrangements are in the care of Evans Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Inc., Anacortes, WA, and the San Juan Islands. To share memories of Bill please sign the online guest register at [www.evanschapel.com](http://www.evanschapel.com).

Bill was a highly-valued, dear personal friend to many in our Society and will be greatly missed but never forgotten.



[www.westernswingsociety.org](http://www.westernswingsociety.org)

Join the conversation on Facebook:  
Sacramento Western Swing Society

## Sharing the Journey

### With Well Wishes and Prayers

Harlan Kubos	Web Tipton
Rhonda Craig	Grady Smith
Wayne Franco	Lucy Dean Record
Lavena Hill	Jay Riley
Lloyd Hooper	Jerry Dezotell
Shorty Joe	Bobby Black
Carl Christofferson	Carole & Ron
Wanda Ramos Love	Hutchinson
Chuck Robbins	Noreen King
Jim Sanderson	Topsy Brigge
Lane Johnson	Vi & Darrell
Jack Naughton	Anderson
Keith Holter	Betty Reeves
Cindy De Leon	Rod Rodriguez
Carmen Champion	Chuck Woods
Harold Selby	Pat Gore
Roy Lee Brown	Jim Gough
Howard Edwards	

### Condolences

To family and friends on the loss of Leigha Howe.

To Alice Striegel, family and friends on the loss of Donald Eardley.

To Carla Gates, family and friends on the loss of her husband, Bill.

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

-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).

Howdy Folks! I am very Happy and Proud to Announce Swinging Country has a new home at KSSL Radio. Cathy Whitten is the Owner and herself a Singer and Recording Artist. She shares my passion to get the music heard at home and around the Globe. Merry Christmas Everyone and Keep Swinging Country.



Billy Bowles

(Here's KSSL's official word:)

KSSL is proud to be the new home for 'Swinging Country' with Billy Bowles. KSSL's slogan is *Playing the Greatest Country Music Ever Recorded*. Billy has a great following across the country and KSSL listeners have welcomed him with open arms. You can hear *Swinging Country* with Billy Bowles every Saturday morning from 10-noon (central time).

Keep Swinging Country! Listen to KSSL all over the world at [www.ksslfm.com](http://www.ksslfm.com) or download our free app on your mobile device.



CELEBRATE December 31st  
**New Year's Eve**  
 As Seen On *True-Country RFD*  
 & *Midwest Country Music Theater*

**Bobby Flores**  
 and  
 the *Yellow Rose Band*  
**The River Club**  
 3180 Hwy. 67/377  
 Proctor, TX 76468  
 Dance: 9:00 pm ~ 12:00 am  
 For Reservations Call: 254) 592-3515  
**Tickets: \$30**  
 "Black-eyed Peas & Cornbread"

**Big Ed**  
 is back with  
**Steel**  
**Country**



for New Year's  
 Eve  
 at the North  
 Seattle Eagles  
 Club, Aerie #4122

17724 15th Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155  
 For details, call Duane at (425) 870-7311 or Pat at  
 (425) 745-3798 or Aerie #4122 at:  
 (206) 367-6096



**"The Skeebo Show"**  
 9 am to 12 noon, M-F

**KNUZ 106.1 FM**  
**KNVR 1410 AM**  
 San Saba, TX

[www.sansabaradio.com](http://www.sansabaradio.com)  
[skeebo@sansabaradio.com](mailto:skeebo@sansabaradio.com)

**December Playlist for**  
**"Skeebo's Line Shack Review"**

- The River Road Boys - *Pennies From Heaven*
- Jeff Woolsey & The Danchall Kings - *Go Away*
- Wade Benson Landry - *At The End Of The Lane*
- Rocky King Band - *Wearn' A Label*
- Leddy Bragg - *My Window Faces The South*
- Jason Roberts Band - *How It Lies*
- Big John Mills - *What Makes Texas Swing*
- The Western Swing Authority -  
*Boogie In The Barnyard*
- Devon Dawson & Outlaw - *Pistol Packing Mama*
- Mikki Daniel - *It's A Sin To Tell A Lie*



The NWWSMS Announces  
**The First Annual  
 People's Choice Award**

Cast your votes for your favorite monthly  
 Showcase Band of 2015!

As someone once said,  
*"Vote Early, Vote Often!!"*

Let's have some fun and raise money for the NWWSMS' Educational Fund! You are invited to participate in the First Annual NWWSMS' People's Choice Awards! We, the people, will be voting to choose our favorite performing band for the 2015 monthly Showcases! (Of course, these results will be playfully skewed and reflect only the willingness of a group's fan base to contribute. Our sincere thanks to all of these talented musicians who so willingly entertain us without compensation.)

The winning band will receive a trophy plus their choice of day/time to perform at the 2016 NWWSMS Western Swing Festival! You can vote as many times as you like! IF you prefer guidelines, you might consider the band's quality and choice of western swing music as well as their stage presence. Did the music make you want to dance?

The price of a ballot (\$5.00) allows you to vote 5 times. You can vote for one band five times or five different bands! Fill out your ballot(s) and deposit them into the ballot box at the December and January showcases. Or you can send your ballots in - along with your check - to the Society's PO Box no later than January 30, 2016. The People's Choice for 2015 will be announced at the February 2016 Showcase!

**2015 Peoples Choice Awards**

**Western Swing Showcase Band of the Year**

(The bands are listed once, in order of their 2015 appearance)

Number of  
 Votes

Band

- \_\_\_\_\_ *Kristi Nebel & Cowgirl's Dream*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Sharyn Lee & the Sundowners*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Butch Gibson & Pardners*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Patty & the Travelin' Four*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Southern Comfort*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Country Fever*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *The Board Band & Friends*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Lloyd Hooper & the Cascade Ramblers*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Paul Cooper & Pickin' Coop*

Total \$ Amount donated: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$5.00 Minimum

**\$5.00 = 5 VOTES**  
**BALLOT**  
**\$5.00 = 5 VOTES**



**2016 Ameripolitan Music Awards**

**Tuesday, February 16th 2016**  
**Paramount Theatre, Austin TX**

*Have e-mail?*

**VOTE ONLINE AT: [www.ameripolitan.com/awards](http://www.ameripolitan.com/awards)**  
 Award recipients are decided by the number of votes. All voting concludes December 26th.  
 Don't wait, vote today!

The following are 2016 Western Swing Nominees:

**Western Swing Female:**

- Carolyn Martin
- Kristyn Harris
- Mikki Daniel
- Stacey Lee Guse
- Katie Glassman

**Western Swing Male:**

- Jason Roberts
- Billy Mata
- Doug Moreland
- Kelly Spinks
- Coby Carter

**Western Swing Group:**

- Hot Texas Swing Band
- Billy Mata and The Texas Tradition
- The Western Swing Authority
- JP Cyr and his Radio Wranglers
- Carolyn Sills Combo

*Please note that there are other categories of interest, such as the award for Ameripolitan DJ. Not only is Ted Branson of KOOP 91.7, Austin, TX, a nominee in this category, he will be broadcasting live from the event!. Listen to his program and I think you'll agree he shares our interest in the history, heart and soul of the roots music of America!*

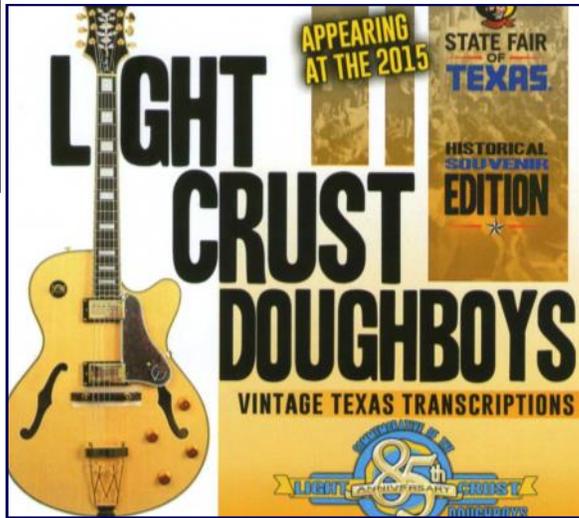
# Photo Highlights from the November Showcase

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 December Showcase!**  
**Save a smile for the camera!**

(Remember, you can view this page in color on our website at: [www.nwwsms.com](http://www.nwwsms.com))



# Album Reviews

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



Mike Gross

Art Greenhaw has let me know that fans of SWINGIN' WEST Radio get the 2 disc set, plus a BONUS wallet-style CD of some of the GOSPEL material on the 2-disc set/plus some additional material (3 discs all total with some song repeats)---for RADIO SPECIAL! \$20.00

postage paid. Personal checks accepted. Checks should be made out and mailed to: Art Greenhaw, 1211 Lakeshore Dr., Mesquite, TX 75149.

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

**Album:** Vintage Texas Transcriptions  
**Artists:** The Light Crust Doughboys  
**Label:** Art Greenhaw

Art Greenhaw and the legendary Light Crust Doughboys have just released a very enjoyable CD/DVD set including the CD with 22 cuts from over the years since Art took over the group and a four part DVD of rare film clips. Part 1 is the Early Years, Part 2, Bob Wills- Milton Brown Influence plus, Part 3, Smokey Montgomery Influence plus and Part 4, Still on the Air.

## Mike's Top 10 for December 2015

**Songs:**

1. Back In My Texas Home - Hot Texas Swing Band
2. Navajo Trail - AATW, Willie Nelson & the Quebe Sisters (Bismeaux)
3. Love Is a Lingerin' Thing - Solitaire Miles
4. Smoky Clubs and Dizzy People - Cowboy Joe (Chimney Rock)
5. All the Love in San Antone - Lisa Layne
6. Meaning to Miss You - Christina Mae
7. Swingtime Lullabye - Western Swing Authority (Canadian Import)
8. Okie Dokie - Cherokee Maidens
9. Texas and You - Kristyn Harris
10. It's a Sin to Tell a Lie - Mikki Daniel & Dave Alexander (Musikode)

**Albums:**

1. Still the King - Asleep At The Wheel (Bismeaux)
2. Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas - Solitaire Miles
3. Now Playing - Western Swing Authority (Canadian Import)
4. I Ain't Dead Yet - Hot Texas Swing Band
5. Something to Bragg About - Ledy Bragg
6. Down the Trail - Kristyn Harris
7. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel (Musikode)
8. Legends - Coby Carter
9. Badger & the Belles - Rich O'Brien, Devon Dawson & Kristyn Harris
10. That's My Home - Jason Roberts

## NWWSMS Application for Membership

Date Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_ Rec'd by: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER  RENEWAL

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

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ DANCER  SUPPORTER

STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PERFORMER  VOCALIST  BAND LEADER

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

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ INSTRUMENT(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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

### NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

- E-mail preferred (if you have given us an e-mail address above, this will be used)
- Please have someone send me a paper newsletter  
 (Note: the NWWSMS will not mail out paper newsletters after 12/31/15)
- I'd be happy to print and mail \_\_\_\_\_ extra newsletters to those without e-mail access  
 (how many)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



Fred Yearian  
Sound Engineer for the  
NWWSMS Annual Festivals  
2012-2015

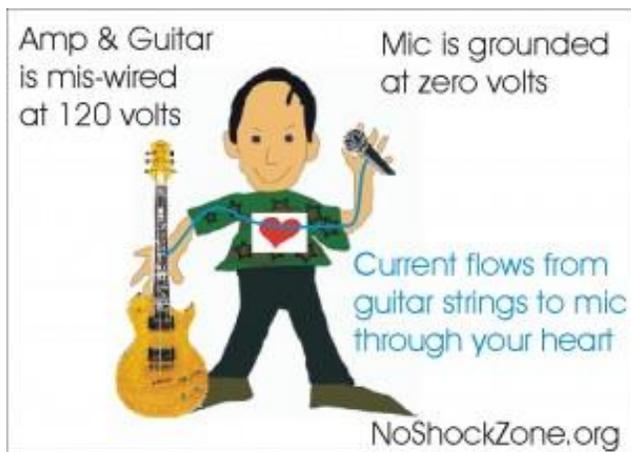
## STAGE SAFETY

*Reminder: 'Tis the Season to Check the Wiring of Your Vintage Amplifiers and Guitars!*

When anticipating playing music one can become complacent at the hazards, especially at an unfamiliar venue. No musician wants to learn to "play the harp" before their time.

There can be several classification of hazards including amenities at a venue, equipment brought by the band and, finally, lurking electrical problems. Several celebrity performers have fallen from stages. One doesn't have to fall very far to have injuries that can be life threatening. Some stages have steps that are far from meeting building code or are portable and may shift or have uneven riser heights. On stage, unorganized cables present a tripping hazard as do some mic stands, guitar stands, etc. Real tragedies have occurred where pyro-techniques have been used. Western swing doesn't need fireworks to be exciting.

Over the years, many amplifiers have come through my shop for repairs. As an electrical engineer, I will mention some of the hidden electrical hazards I have fixed that can be lethal as well as destroy equipment.



All of us have probably felt at some point a "buzz" when the back of our hand has brushed a metal object. This is a warning that there is an alternating current voltage between us and the object. It is fairly safe on stage to use the back of the hand as a preliminary test for stray voltage since if real shock occurs the muscles will naturally retract away from the energized item. ANY time one senses such stray voltage, the source needs to be found and eliminated.

There are many sneak sources of stray voltage that can bite us. All equipment should have three-wire cords with a few exceptions of devices powered by "wall-wart" transformers and modern double insulated devices. ANY device on which a grounding pin has been cut or is missing

from the cord plug should be quarantined immediately for repair.

Some musicians have OLD guitar amps or will be receiving them this holiday season that have two wire cords and a very deadly thing - a polarity switch that is intended to be used to reduce hum. These are deadly and here is why: The switch connects a capacitor between one of the two power wires and the chassis and usually the ground side of the guitar connectors. That capacitor separates whichever side of the power line and the chassis AND you by a thin sheet of waxed paper or plastic. Any of several scenarios can puncture this sheet leaving death trap for the user. Look over your older equipment and have a three wire cord installed if needed and remove that capacitor. It is unlikely that this old wiring scheme could receive UL approval today.

The next electrical hazards we will discuss is those of the venue itself. We have come a long way since the 70's but there are still real hazards out there. These can include broken receptacles, improper wiring (*not everything is caught by electrical inspectors*) and in-house wiring failures to name a few. Often replacement of receptacles are done by inexperienced maintenance people who may make a mistake. One can get a receptacle tester to carry with to verify the correct wiring.



*Example of Receptacle Tester available at Guitar Center or your local hardware store for under \$6.00*

Now lets talk equipment safety. While stray voltage under 50 volts is considered non-life threatening, this level of voltage is often fatal to our solid-state equipment. The RULE is: Any and all INTERCONNECTED electronics should be powered from a single source or receptacle. Powering a mixer board from the back of the room receptacle that is connected to equipment on-stage that is powered from stage receptacle(s) results in exposing the equipment to noise spikes and "ground bounce" that are often around 600 volts within the building wiring. This can destroy the preamps in the equipment AND also cause hum. This is why I power the back of house mixer by an extension cord from the stage receptacle powering the amps.

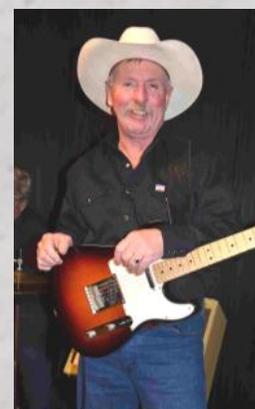
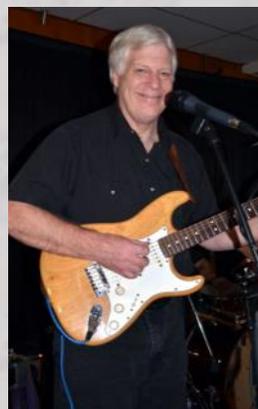
Electrical shock is nothing to fool with as there is the risk of electrocution but ALSO the accident possibility from involuntary muscle reaction to the shock. Several musicians have met an untimely death when they grabbed the mic stand and were electrocuted by voltage between their guitar and the mic. Remember to "brush" the mic stand with the BACK of your hand while holding the guitar. Play well, but play safe!

### STAGE SAFETY TIPS TO TAKE AWAY

**DO NOT use polarity switches or those ground isolating adapters that lift the ground pin... the pin is there for your safety.**

**GO WIRELESS if/when possible: Wireless systems as well as GFCI power protectors (now available in extension cords) increase stage safety significantly.**

## Showcase Band for November: Lloyd Hooper & the Cascade Ramblers



Pictured from left to right: Lloyd Hooper, Cindy DeLeon (guest performer), Peter Brown, Thom Gustafson, Steve Ketchum



### November 8th Showcase

*Jeanne Yearian standing in for Lou Bischoff*

I'm sure you are wondering, "What is Jeanne doing in Lou's spot?!?" It's not often that Lou misses one of the NWWSSMS Showcases, but both Lou and Ed needed some rest after taking care of some health issues. I'm happy to report they are both doing well. She and Ed look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Our sincere thanks to Lloyd Hooper and the Cascade Ramblers for hosting the November Showcase. Despite battling upper respiratory ailments so common to those who live in the Northwest this time of year, the band did an outstanding job. If you have never danced to the music of the Cascade Ramblers, make plans to stop by the Sedro Woolley American Legion when they are playing. In addition to being fine musicians, their close harmonies add much depth and color to their arrangements.

Before the Cascade Ramblers left the stage, the Society took time to honor all of the Veterans present. Lloyd Hooper presided and asked all of the Veterans to join him in front of the bandstand for a few brief, tender moments, honoring those men and women who stood ready to protect this great nation at war and in peace. As we reflected, we were reminded of the precious and costly price so many have paid for our freedoms.



Next, the jam band took the stage. Paul Cooper, who will be leading the host band in December, stepped up with his bass and fine voice. His years of experience on the bandstand really showed. Between Paul Cooper and Patty McConnell (*who was on drums*), the jammers seemed to flow on and off the

stage as though it had been rehearsed. If you have been debating about whether or not you'd like to try your hand playing or singing in a western swing jam band, this could be the opportunity you've been waiting for. Come on out and give it a try! Many of those taking part in the jam seasoned musicians who are

only too happy to introduce you to western swing. To add to the fun, our dancers who stay for the jam make everyone on the stage feel special! This day was no exception.

Thanks to Fred Yearian for providing the sound system today. We were short of volunteers and really appreciated those who helped manage some of the heavier pieces of equipment. Special thanks to Larry Broad, Jesse Lee Johnson, Peter Brown and Thom Gustafson. Also, our thanks to the staff of the Lynnwood Eagles . . . who gave us excellent service.

In closing, let's make sure we share the blessings of this holiday season with some of those spending the holidays far from friends and family. I'm sure Lou would want me to remind everyone to remember those in need of our support and prayers . . . and to tell those important in your life how much they mean to you.

See you at the December Showcase,  
Jeanne



## Western Swing Dancer's Network (WSDN)

### Report on the WSMSS Showcase at Wagoner, OK

Everything about the WSMSS Showcase held at the Western Hills Lodge in Wagoner, OK, was such a blessing. Being with all the friends we always see while in Wagoner, the music, and the musicians, *(which were outstanding as always because they are the Masters who play for pleasure)*. We dancers appreciate their sacrifice.

The WSMSS Showcase began Wednesday November the 4<sup>th</sup>. The weather, lodge, park, and lake there were beautiful. We saw so many of our dear friends this weekend.

The WSMSS Showcases were originally founded by musicians, for musicians, to preserve western swing music...so it is very musician friendly. Over the years dancers have come by the droves as well. The original charter members put up with us boot scooters... I suppose the reason is they can't get rid of us because us dancers flock to any event where there is dance music being played! And so it is with this event. We dancers congregate to reunite with our friends, celebrate our love for each other, and for the music we love while we dance our twinkle toes off! Although boot scooters may not be the VIPs at the WSMSS events, make no mistake...we dancers very much appreciate the sacrifice these musicians make to play for free and at their own expense. We show our appreciation for their talent and efforts by being present, at our own expense, to be on or close to that dance floor cheering them on. Thank you, dancers, fans, and musicians for this marriage. Our dancing is friendship set to music.



Chuck Hayes presenting Rhonda Craig with her plaque from the NWWSMS

and the dancers. What a wonderful tribute and it came from people who do not even know me. I so wish we could have been in Washington to accept this award in person. Maybe next year! We are hoping to be there when you honor the next one among us. We love you and we love what you're doing. Keep up the good work. Dick and Rhonda



Rhonda Craig



Mike Gross

## "Swingin' West"

Mike Gross  
KSEY-FM, Seymour, TX

[www.swinginwest.com](http://www.swinginwest.com)

## Mike's Top Picks for 2015

### Songs

1. Lonesome Town - Coby Carter
2. Navajo Trail - AATW, Willie Nelson, Quebe Sisters
3. Swingin' in Tucson - Kristi Nebel (*Icebird*)
4. It's a Sin to Tell a Lie - Mikki Daniel & Dave Alexander (*Musikode*)
5. Slow Boat to China - Western Swing Authority (Canada)
6. Don Edwards for President - Red Hot Rhythm Rustlers
7. Meaning to Miss You - Christina Mae
8. Back in My Texas Home - Hot Texas Swing Band
9. Let's All Go to El Paso - Curio Cowboys
10. Swingtime Lullabye - Western Swing Authority (Canada)

### Albums

1. Legends - Coby Carter
2. Still the King - Asleep at the Wheel
3. Now Playing - Western Swing Authority
4. Cowgirl Swing - Mikki Daniel (*Musikode*)
5. That's My Home - Jason Roberts
6. Tulsa Playboys and Friends - Tulsa Playboys
7. Badger & the Belles - Rich O'Brien, Devon Dawson & Kristyn Harris
8. I Ain't Dead Yet - Hot Texas Swing Band
9. A Platter of Brownies - Carolyn Martin (*Java Jive*)
10. Susie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas - Solitaire Miles

Friday night, at the Showcase here in Wagoner, Chuck Hayes presented my beautiful award to me from the NWWSM Society. I could hardly hold back the tears. I addressed the crowd so they would understand that this award was NOT from the WSMSS here but from the NW Society who did so to honor dancers as an important part of the music family. I cannot thank you all enough for the wonderful honor that you bestowed upon me

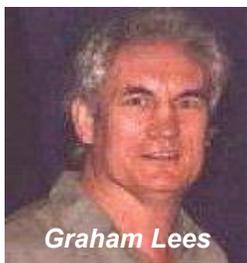


TEXAS WESTERN SWING  
HALL OF FAME

The Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame started in 1988 and was first based in Austin, then moved to its current home in San Marcos, Texas.

The Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame weekend takes place each year in San Marcos, Texas, on the third weekend of May. Check us out on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/texaswesternswinghalloffame>



Graham Lees

**United Kingdom**  
*The Western Hour*  
*Twang-Grass*  
*The Country Connection*  
 can heard streaming on the Home  
 Page of my website  
<http://www.grahamlees.co.uk/>

### Music Note from the UK

Watch for updates on the British western swing band **The Swing Commanders**. They are still doing well on the British scene. Be sure to check them out. I know you won't be disappointed!

### Top 10 Western Swing & Traditional Country for December 2015

#### Top Ten Albums

1. *Trail Jazz*, Cowboy Joe Babcock
2. *Dancing Your Memory Away*, Myra Rolan
3. *Big Coral Roundup*, Barbara Nelson
4. *This is Tommy Duncan, Vol. One*, Billy Mata
5. *A Platter of Brownies*, Carolyn Martin
6. *Good Vintage*, The Swing Commanders
7. *Cowgirl Swing*, Mikki Daniel
8. *Depend on Me*, Susan Riley/Mark Abbott
9. *Legends*, Coby Carter
10. *Go to Town*, The Lucky Stars

#### Top Ten Songs

1. *The Marionette*, Myra Rolan/Darrell McCall
2. *Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue*, Barbara Nelson
3. *Smokey Clubs and Dizzy People*, Cowboy Joe
4. *Did You Ever See A Dream Walking*, Retta Christie
5. *When I Grow Too Old to Dream*, The River Road Boys
6. *No Strings Attached*, Ann J Morton
7. *L.O.V.E.*, Tony Harrison & Hot Texas
8. *That Silver Haired Daddy of Mine*, Bonita Mercer
9. *My Last Word to You*, Chuck Cusimano
10. *Georgia On My Mind*, Quebe Sisters Band



### Billy Bowles Birthday Bash and 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Swinging Country & AWA Pre-Awards Jam and Dance

from 6 pm to 1 am on Friday, March 11, 2016,  
 at World Famous Lil' Reds Longhorn Saloon  
 Fort Worth, Texas,  
 located at 121 West Exchange  
 in the historic Stockyards District

Who is eligible to participate in my Pre Awards Jam? It is open to anyone I play on Swinging Country. It is open to ALL who are on the AWA Nomination list.

Artists & musicians wishing to participate in my Pre Awards Jam may begin contacting me immediately.

**Contact Billy at:**

**806-773-2723 or on Facebook at Billy Bowles**



(Our thanks to Chuck Cusimano for adapting this bit of humor.)

