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**Volume 34 Issue 5**

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

**May 2017**

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



***“It was in the Springtime that you said good-bye”*** -  
(from *Faded Love* LC Agnew's favorite song.)

Pioneer of Western Swing, L.C. Agnew, 87, passed away on April 6, 2017, at his home in Abilene, TX. LC was inducted into the NWWSMS Hall of

Fame in 2006. A part of his story follows.

L.C. Agnew was born in 1929 on a farm near Cisco, TX. His mother bought him a guitar when he was about 11 years old and that started his musical career. He quickly learned the chords and six months later, accompanying his dad on the fiddle, began playing for country dances usually in a vacant farm house.

L.C. came from a long line of musicians. His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all played the fiddle. On his mother's side, her brothers, Dalton and Macon Adams, both played music professionally and formed a band in the late 20s named, "The Dixie Playboys." It seemed natural that L.C. had an eagerness to become a musician. He took up the fiddle, then learned to play keyboard and trumpet.

*(continued on page 4 . . .)*

(Editor's note: We are so fortunate that 2011 NWWSMS Inductee, Lane Johnson, took a camera to the Ponderosa Ballroom one evening in 1987 and captured this piece of history. Although the video quality does not match today's devices, I think you'll agree the quality of the music comes through loud and clear! The Ponderosa Ballroom - where 2014 Inductee Carolyn Martin first fell in love with Western Swing music!)

Click below to step back in time , part 1 of 4



Left to right:- Dickie Rosser -Sax, Ron Williams - Piano, Larry Toliver - Steel Guitar, Ronnie Scott - Vocalist, LC Agnew - Fiddle and Owner, Randy Maynard - Drummer, Jim Sturrock - Bass, Tony Pritchard - Mgr. Ponderosa

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## 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.

### 2017 Officers and Board Members

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**Board Members:** Lou Bischoff, Sharon Capps, Dave DuChane, Shelley McNaughton, Sharon Smith. Alternate: Nan Butler

#### 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, **JOIN**  
the NWWSMS. **RENEW** your membership  
or **DONATE**.

Like us on **FACEBOOK** at  
**NorthWest Western Swing Music Society**

Contact the editor,  
[jeanneyearian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneyearian@yahoo.com), to receive our  
newsletter in your in-box.

#### PHOTO CREDITS:

NWWSMS showcase photos by  
Fred and Jeanne Yearian.

## MINUTES FROM THE BOARD

APRIL 9, 2017



**Alice Striegel**  
Secretary

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

**Present by Verbal Role Call:** Sharon Capps (by phone), Dave DuChane, Shelley McNaughton, Jerry Seitz, Sharon Smith, Alice Striegel, Dave Wheeler.

**Excused:** Lou Bischoff, Nan Butler

**Guests:** Steve Carter, Doug Oppelt, Fred Yearian.

**President's Report:** The 2017 State of Washington nonprofit corporation renewal/annual report has been filed. On Monday, the 2017 Nominees and their Sponsors will be notified of the Selection Committee's decisions. Once the Nominees, Inductees and Sponsors have been contacted, a listing of the 2017 Inductees will be posted on the Website and Facebook. Later this month, letters of invitation will go out to bands, inviting them to perform at this year's Festival.

The Second Annual Spring Dance, hosted by the Workshop Band, was a great success. Our sincere thanks to Jerry Seitz, along with the entire team of volunteers and instructors who put this together. Video clips have been posted with highlights. Some familiar faces dance by!

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Dave Wheeler presented the financial reports.

**Bills:** Approved to pay.

#### Committee Reports:

**Newsletter/Website/Facebook:** Jeanne Yearian reports that this month festival information will be posted. This information as well as the link to purchase tickets on-line through Brown Paper Tickets will be posted on a flyer to be distributed. The Enumclaw Expo Center will be posting the festival information along with the link to Brown Paper Tickets on their website as well.

**Membership Update:** Jeanne Yearian reported there are 223 paid-up members, with one new member since February's report.

**Showcase:** Sharon Smith reported that the host band for today is Southern Comfort. For May the host band will be Kristi Nebel and Cowgirl's Dream. June's host band will be Paul Cooper & Pickin' Coop.

**Hall of Fame Selection Committee:** Alice Striegel presented to the Board copies of the biographies for the 14 Inductees for 2017.

**Sunshine:** In Lou Bischoff's absence, Jeanne Yearian provided an update.

(Minutes from April 9, 2017 continued . . .)

**Festival Committee:** Jeanne and Fred Yearian will be visiting the venue again in April. Please let them know if you would like to come along. They will come away with updates on: next payment on venue; 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade; State Fair participation; progress on sound deadening the hall; possibility of a monthly western swing jam scheduled; compile a list of caterers to contact.

We are pleased to announce that John and Tracie Jones have accepted our invitation to host the 2017 Induction Ceremony Celebration. We will be contacting Brown Paper Tickets this month to set up the presale of Festival tickets. The ticket prices for this year will be: \$10.00 at the door/day; \$7.00/day online through Brown Paper Tickets; \$25.00 weekend pass at the door; \$20.00 for a pre-sale weekend pass. Children under 10 will be free. JC McCormick has offered to donate ½ and ¾ size violins for the Festival raffle this year OR donate them to the Workshop Program.

**Scholarship/Workshop Committee Report:** Jerry Seitz presented an update on the Workshop/Dance on April 1 at the Eagles Aerie #1 in Lake City.

#### Unfinished Business:

**JBLM Music Therapy Program Update:** Jeanne Yearian reports that there has been a change in command throughout the Warrior Transition Battalion and it is still on-going. Once the dust settles, Gary Ouillette will approach the new commander about further participation by the NWWSMS in the program.

**Update on finding a western swing band to represent the Society for 2017:** Jeanne Yearian reports that the Expo Center is very interested in The Oregon Valley Boys. Negotiations ongoing. Paul Elliott has also expressed an interest in helping to develop a band . . . more to come.

#### New Business:

**Request for Olympia Jam:** A request has been received by one of the Scholarship Recipients (Sheila Ryan) that a western swing jam session be set up closer to Olympia. Jeanne Yearian will contact the Expo Center to discuss the possibility of western swing locations in Enumclaw.

The meeting's minutes were read and approved by the Board members present. Motion passed to adjourn at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Striegel, Secretary





**NWWSMS**  
 NorthWest Western Swing Music Society  
 Preserving, Promoting & Performing  
 Western Swing Music Since 1983

**Celebrate  
 Mothers Day  
 with your western swing  
 family!**

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

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

**at the May 14, 2017  
 Western Swing Showcase**

**Featuring**

**Kristi Nebel &  
 Cowgirl's Dream**



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

Join the conversation on Facebook:  
**Sacramento Western Swing  
 Society**

**President's  
 Corner**



Jeanne Yeargin

It is a great honor and privilege to announce the individuals chosen to be inducted into the 2017 NorthWest Western Swing Music Society's Hall of Fame. Each of the following listed below were evaluated by their sponsors as well as the Selection Committee for their significant contributions to the preservation and promotion of America's Western Swing Music. The Induction Celebration Ceremony will be held Sunday, August 13th, during the 27th Annual Western Swing Festival at our new festival venue, the historic Field House in Enumclaw, Washington. I look forward to expressing my heartfelt congratulations to many of you, personally, in August!

**The NWWSMS Hall of Fame  
 Inductees for 2017 are:**

- JD Barham - Texas
- Lee Barlow - Texas
- Jimmy Burson - Texas
- Robert Huston - Arkansas
- Alfie Johns - California
- Graham Lees - United Kingdom
- Dan Lyon - Washington
- Tony Ramsey - Oklahoma
- Lefty Schrage - Iowa
- Duane Trueblood - Washington
- Joe C. Walenta - Texas
- Chuck Webb - California

**Inducted Posthumously:**

- Gene Gasaway - Texas
- Paul Tutmarc - Washington

Additional information on each of the Inductees will be available from time to time in our newsletters as well as in the commemorative booklet that will be available at the Hall of Fame on Sunday, August 13, 2017. If you miss these opportunities to get to know the stories and musical histories of the 2017 Inductees, the commemorative booklet will be stored as a PDF on the website this fall.

Make plans to join us on July 16 as we hold our annual picnic at the King County Fair (*more on this in the June newsletter*). **The Oregon Valley Boys** will be representing the NWWSMS

**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.

**The Go Outside and Playboys.** For booking information and more on Seattle's newest western swing band, visit their website at: [www.gooutsideandplayboys.com](http://www.gooutsideandplayboys.com).

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

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

**Ken Fullerton and Country Fever.** Auburn Eagles, every Monday, 6-9 pm. Call 253-922-7888 or 253-380-2445 for more information.

and promoting the upcoming August festival! They will be playing on the main stage at the Fair on Sunday afternoon, beginning at 4 pm.

Our thanks to **Southern Comfort** for hosting the April Showcase in style. From hosting the first two hours to taking part in the jam that followed, these folks made everyone feel right at home.

We are so pleased to have **Kristi Nebel and Cowgirl's Dream** back and playing for the May Showcase.

Does your mother enjoy Western Swing music - performed live? Dancing? Be sure to bring her by and join in our Mothers Day celebration!

Come have lunch with us then work it off on the dancefloor! We'll look forward to seeing you!

JY

**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.**



## Cherishing the Memories

(Continued from page 1, L.C. Agnew)



**L.C. Agnew**

While a teenager, L.C. teamed up with his uncle, Benny Johnson, who was the same age and played the guitar. They started playing in church and at social gatherings. Their favorite songs were those of Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys.

Years later, L.C. migrated to Shreveport, where he played with some of the Louisiana Hayride stars. Later, he moved to Abilene, where he formed **The Dixie Playboys**, adopting the name from his family's former band. They played on radio and television in Abilene and for steady engagements all over West Texas.

L.C. married Dorothy Lott-Carpenter on November 24th, 1965, and in 1967 he opened the Carpenters Hall, now known as Midnight Rodeo.

Several years later, in 1974, L.C. opened the Ponderosa Ballroom, known all over the country for its Western Swing music. For 10 years, Agnew's band, L.C. Agnew and the Dixie Playboys, was the house band. By the 1980s, the Ponderosa had gained notice as being one of the best honky-tonks in Texas. At the Ponderosa, well-known country music stars and those perhaps with their first hit regularly performed.

Over the years, L.C. played with many artists such as Johnny Horton, George Jones, Governor Jimmie Davis and Slim Whitman. Due to complications, L.C. sold the Ponderosa in 1994 and retired, but continued to play keyboard at select events around town, including opening a dance hall on F.M. 600 which he named Danceland. He continued to play every chance he had, as long as he was able.

Renowned jazz and western swing keyboard artist, Charlie Mudford, 83, left this earth on April 13, 2017, to make music with Jesus in heaven. Charlie was born August 30, 1933, into a musical family. His father Eddie, played fiddle and his mother, Goldie, played guitar, piano, and sang. In his teens, Charlie played with local bands, learning to play different styles of music. He played the French Horn in high school but playing piano was always his first and foremost love.



**Charlie Mudford**

Charlie began his professional music career at the age of eighteen, playing with bands at the local nightclubs. By the age of 20, he was touring with the Tex Dean Show based in Florida. He appeared with Tex on the Louisiana Hayride with Faron Young, Slim Whitman, the Wilburn Brothers and Johnny Horton. When drafted into the Army and sent to Germany, Charlie didn't miss a beat with his music. He hosted a weekly radio show and played at the USO, Enlisted Mens' Clubs and Officers' Clubs.

Out of the Army and back in the USA once again, he moved to Houston, Texas where he worked with Jim Reeves, Floyd Tillman, Little Red Hays and many others. Moving to Roswell, New Mexico, he played with Ray Reed, Tommy Duncan and Tag Lambert. One more move found him in Fort Worth, Texas, where he backed many great musicians including Tommy Allsup, Merle David, and Cesar Massey to name a few. During the years that followed, Charlie backed more great musicians.

In 2001 while traveling in California, Charlie was invited to sit in and play with new friends and musicians. It wasn't long before he was inducted into the California Western Swing Society. In 2002, the Seattle, Washington Western Swing inducted Charlie into their society. Oklahoma and Texas formed the Western Swing Society of the Southwest and inducted him in their society in 2004. Charlie's whole life has revolved around music and he has promoted music in many ways. During all these years, Charlie enjoyed flying his own airplane and dancing.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Alliance Tri State, P.O. Box 7812, Texarkana, Texas 75505 or Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Ave., 7th floor, New York, New York 10001.

## Sharing the Journey

### With Well Wishes and Prayers

Norma King	Chuck Robbins
Ken Stroud	Mary Downing
Patricia Stroud	Shorty Joe
Tink Carriker	Quartuccio
Jody Meredith	Jim Sanderson
Chuck Robbins	Cliff Brizendine
Edd Burnett	Lane Johnson
Dayna Wills	Dave Martin
Lou Bischoff	Keith Holter
Gene Carter	Jim Wallace
Betty Hasting	Kathy Wallace
Sandy Macham	Red Gillean
Jeannie Poe	Cindy De Leon
Ray Poe	Roy Lee Brown
Kris Burnett	Web Tipton
Ken Jones	Vi & Darrell
Robert LaClaire	Anderson
Lavena Hill	Betty Reeves
Lloyd Hooper	Chuck Woods
Wanda Ramos Love	

### Condolences

*To Dorothy Agnew, family, friends and fans on the loss of her husband, L.C.*

*To Carolyn Mudford, family, friends and fans on the loss of her husband, Charlie.*

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

*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).*



**NWWSMS Hall of Fame  
2017 Inductees**

- JD Barham - Texas  
 Lee Barlow - Texas  
 Jimmy Burson - Texas  
 Robert Huston - Arkansas  
 Alfie Johns - California  
 Graham Lees - United Kingdom  
 Dan Lyon - Washington  
 Tony Ramsey - Arkansas  
 Lefty Schrage - Iowa  
 Duane Trueblood - Washington  
 Joe Walenta - Texas  
 Charles (Chuck) Webb - California
- Posthumous Inductees**  
 Gene Gasaway - Arkansas  
 Paul Tutmarc - Washington



**1983-2017 Celebrating 34 Years!**  
 The Northwest Western Swing Music Society's

**27th Annual  
 Western Swing Music  
 Festival &  
 "Hall of Fame"**  
 August 11 -13, 2017

At the Enumclaw Expo Center Field House (Hwy 410) - Enumclaw, WA. With Its Beautiful, Big Dance Floor - Three Days of Great Music  
 A family event. Everyone welcome!

**MOTELS SPONSORING THE 2017 NWWSMS  
 WESTERN SWING FESTIVAL/HALL OF FAME,  
 AUGUST 11-13**

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

**Cedars Inn** Located right 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.

**Guesthouse Inn** Located near the heart of downtown  
 Enumclaw at 1000 Griffin Ave., Enumclaw, WA 98022  
 Western Swing rate . . . \$139.00 for singles with king bed  
 \$129.00 for two queen beds

Phone: 360-825-4490

Amenities: Free wireless high-speed Internet access, Complimentary  
 continental breakfast. All rooms with cable TV, coffee maker, hair dryer,  
 ironing board, microwave and refrigerator.

**Econo Lodge Buckley** Located at 29405 State Route 410 E,  
 Buckley, WA 98321 (8 miles from the festival venue)  
 Western Swing rate . . . \$109.00 for singles with queen bed  
 \$119.00 for two beds

Phone: 360-829-1100

Amenities: Complimentary hot breakfast, Outdoor pool, Washers/Dryers.

**Make your motel reservations as soon as possible! Rooms are limited.**

**3 Days of Music,  
 Dancing, Jam Sessions  
 Meet the Super Sidemen -  
 The Sounds behind the Stars!**

Enjoy the sounds of the music too country for jazz  
 and too jazz for country - Western Swing!!

**CELEBRATING 34 YEARS**  
 Dance and play with us at the 27<sup>th</sup> Western Swing Music Festival and  
 Hall of Fame Celebration of the Northwest Western Swing Music Society  
**August 11-13, 2017**  
 Location: The Historic Field House, located on Hwy 410, part of the  
 Enumclaw Expo Center, Enumclaw, WA

**Festival Schedule**  
 Dance Friday through Sunday to local and guest bands in the main ballroom.  
 Join in the jam sessions taking place in the Western Swing Party Room  
 and outside, around the venue's RV park.  
 (The club's doors open daily at 11:00 AM to jammers and dancers.)

Meet & Greet Jam Session on Thursday evening, August 10:  
 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM  
 Friday, August 11: 1:00 PM to 11:30 PM  
 Saturday, August 12: 1:00 PM to 11:30 PM  
 Sunday, August 13: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM

**Admission for General Public (children under 10 admitted free):**  
 Thursday - Free of Charge  
 Friday, Saturday and Sunday - \$10.00/day  
 Discounted tickets available through [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) (search: nwwsms)

This family-friendly event is open to the public.  
 Food and a selection of adult beverages are available  
 at the venue.

For further information or updates on the festival and other  
 upcoming events, visit our website at [nwwsms.com/events](http://nwwsms.com/events) or  
 look for us on Facebook (nwwsms).





## How Asleep at the Wheel Is Helping Save Texas' Dance Halls

By: Lauren Walser

Photos by Wendy Schutts

*"Without Texas' historic dance halls, there wouldn't be Texas music," - so says Asleep at the Wheel frontman Ray Benson.*

Benson and his eight-piece Texas swing band have performed in dance halls all across the state of Texas. And this past March, they showed their support for these historic venues, raising funds and awareness for nonprofit Texas Dance Hall Preservation through their five-day Texas Dance Hall Tour. The tour, which ran from March 20-26, 2017, included stops at five different dance halls, with performances by Asleep at the Wheel, Lee Ann Womack, Dale Watson, Hot Club of Cowtown, the Quebe Sisters, Dale & Ray, High Plains Jamboree, and Heybale!

We spoke with Benson and Sam Seifert, the event director for the Texas Dance Hall Tour, about their week on the road.

### What inspired Asleep at the Wheel to organize the Texas Dance Hall Tour?

**RB:** Well, we wanted to create what we felt was a truly special and unique Texas experience, inviting folks from all over the country to participate in a full week of Texas music, food, activities, and, of course, the dances in our amazing historic dance halls. Also, we wanted to raise funds and awareness for the Texas Dance Hall Preservation, so that we can make sure our dance halls are taken care of and are here for many years to come.



Dancing at Fischer Hall

**Have you worked with Texas Dance Hall Preservation before, or was this your first big collaboration?**

**SS:** We have worked together before in the past for some of their fundraiser dances, but this was definitely a bigger event and collaboration than in the past. We felt the tour was a success and got a lot of great feedback and are looking to do it again this October.

**How many cities and dance halls were a part of the tour?**

**RB:** Every day on the tour we went to a new town and dance hall. We played at five different dance halls on the tour starting in

Blanco at Twin Sisters, then went to Fischer and played Fischer Hall. We of course went to the famous town of Luckenbach and played their wonderful hall. Then we moved the tour east and played in Schulenburg at Sengelmann Hall, and finally ended our tour in La Grange at Fair Pavilion Hall.

**I saw your schedule—the tour looked packed with activities. What did the week look like? What were the different events and activities you hosted?**

**SS:** We felt that only offering dances in the evening wouldn't be enough, so every day during the afternoon we offered activities like dance lessons, distillery tastings and tours, and tours of other dance halls in the surrounding areas. We visited Junk Gypsy and their amazing antiques store, and of course we had to make sure everyone was well fed with Texas BBQ and other Texas food staples.



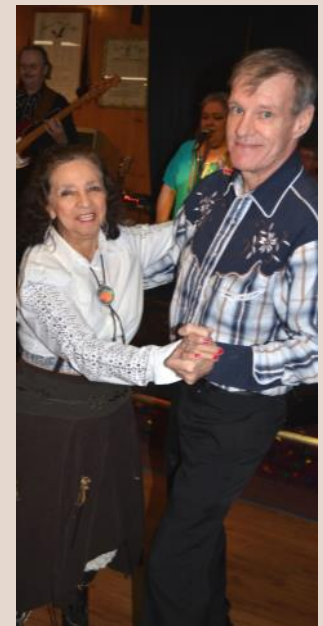
Dale Watson and Ray Benson performing At Fischer Hall

(Continued on page 11)

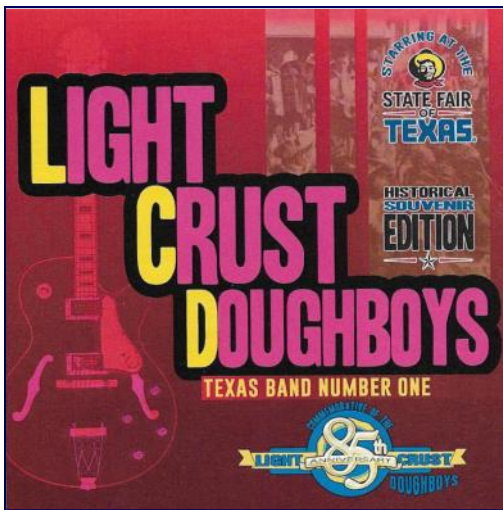


# Photo Highlights from the April Showcase

*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 May Showcase.  
Save a smile for the camera!*



# Album Reviews

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



Mike Gross

Montgomery's banjo and the voice of Art Greenhaw.

The CD can be ordered from Art Greenhaw, Inc., 1211 Lakeshore Dr., Mesquite, TX 75149. The cost is \$15.00 postage paid in the USA.

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

**Album:** Texas Band Number One  
**Artist:** Light Crust Doughboys  
**Label:** Art Greenhaw

Art Greenhaw and the legendary Light Crust Doughboys have just released another very enjoyable CD. It includes 22 cuts, half from the 1940s and half from the years since Art took over the group. Two of the later cuts feature the voice and yodeling of Janet McBride. Other highlights include Smokey

## Mike's Top 10 for May 2017

**Songs:**

1. My San Antonio Rose - The Time Jumpers (Rounder)
2. She's All Texas - Ed Montana (Six Pack Music)
3. We're the Time Jumpers - The Time Jumpers (Rounder)
4. Stop, Look and Listen - Frank Maloy, Paul Anastasio, Casey Driscoll & Friends
5. You Were Meant to Ruin My Dreams - Paul Schlesinger & His Knights of Western Swing
6. Dallas - Tommy Hooker
7. Everything's Gotta Swing in Texas - Cowboy Joe
8. This Song Is Just for You - Paul Schlesinger & His Knights of Western Swing
9. Souvenir - Joyce Woodson (Radish)
10. Love Is a Lingering Thing - Solitaire Miles

**Albums:**

1. Kid Sister - The Time Jumpers (Rounder)
2. Paul Schlesinger & His Knights of Western Swing - Paul Schlesinger
3. Recollections in Swing - Uptown Drifters
4. Rose of Old Pawnee - Curio Cowboys
5. Green Mountain Standard Time - Rick & the Ramblers (Airflyte)
6. You're the Best Thing - Nick Demaio
7. Mood Swings - Liz Masterson (Western Serenade Music)
8. Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas - Solitaire Miles
9. Wild Blue Yonder - The Western Flyers
10. Something to Bragg About - Leddy Bragg

## 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

### 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.



Visit us on the web at: [www.nwwsms.com](http://www.nwwsms.com)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**





Shelley McNaughton

## Highlights from the April 9th Showcase

By Shelley McNaughton

I have been wondering since the showcase, how I was going to be able to write an unbiased article, since my own band, **Southern Comfort**, was the host band this month.

After much thought and reflection, I decided that I could not write an unbiased article because I truly love this band, and I am completely biased about it. So..... I decided that I'm just going to tell you a little bit about us and how we came to be, and how much this band means to me.... And then I'll run over the highlights from the showcase and the jam.

The **Southern Comfort** band has been a part of my life for over 26 years. We've been through a lot, we've played a lot of music, told a lot of bad jokes, loved each other and grieved with and for each other through a lot of years. **Southern Comfort** has slowly morphed into the variety band that we are now. We can move as easily through Chuck Berry's "No Money Down" to Willie Nelson's "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain," as we can to Ben E. King's "Stand By Me" and Skip Ewing's "Don't Mind if I Do." Then, in the next breath, we'll turn around and give you, in true Bob Wills (Southern Comfort) style, "My Window Faces the South," "Crazy Arms," and "Home in San Antone." We do love our Western Swing Sets.

I always think that for a Trio with a girl singer, we have a pretty big sound. Gene Burbank (Geno to us) is the last original member of Southern Comfort and has been this band's lead Guitar player for 28 years. In the early days Gene and the original Bass player, Steve Key, decided that they wanted to have a girl singer in the band and drafted me for the job. I was so flattered and happy to be a part of this group. Robert Van den Akker came to us 25 years ago and has been our drummer

du' jour ever since. The newbie of our band, with only 7 years under his Southern Comfort belt, is Dave DuChane, who has brought his wonderful energized bass playing, solid lead vocals and great harmonies to our group.

Before we each came to Southern Comfort, we all had very different musical backgrounds and had performed in many different genre's including Jazz, Pop, Rock "n" Roll, Classic Country, Country Rock, Gospel, Folk, Bluegrass, etc.....

I think that our diverse background is what makes our sound unique and keeps us recognizable.

I remember one evening a dozen or so years ago, when I walked into a nightclub and could hear from the lobby, a guitar player in the lounge, and knew it was Gene Burbank, without even seeing him, by his own unique picking style. I hadn't even known he was there, but his style is so recognizable that I just knew it was him.

Gene's extremely unique picking style, combined with our "dead-on/in-the-pocket" rhythm section, featuring Van and Dave, are what drives us and keeps us going. The fact that we all sing lead and we all sing harmony are what set us apart. We've been together so long that we are family. Sometimes we're best friends, sometimes not so much, but we're always family.



Doug Oppelt dancing with his grandniece

This was a special showcase for us because it was the first time that all of us had been on the bandstand together since Dave left to go to Minnesota for the winter to help care

for his Father. It had been 6 months!! Dave stay's busy musically while he's back east and has a pretty hectic playing schedule while he's there. In his absence, we've all done other things musically as well, but..... there is just nothing quite like **GETTING THE BAND BACK TOGETHER!!!!**

For the showcase, we brought out our best Western Swing set, kicking it off with "Crazy Arms," dedicated as always to Ms. Lou, and as always, we had a wonderful time, crooning and swinging along with the favorites mentioned above, as well as some other cherished staples such as "Cherokee Maiden," "Just call Me Lonesome," "San Antonio Rose," and "Route 66." There were a few country tunes thrown in as well, such as "Old Flames," "Amarillo by Morning," "I should have called," and "Just call Me Lonesome." In the middle of our set, we had a real treat. Dave's brother Doug, who returned with him from Minnesota, joined us onstage for a few songs. Doug is also a fine bass player, so Dave played some rhythm guitar while brother Doug took care of the bass work on "Sea of Heartbreak," "Jambalaya" and "From a Jack to a King" .. Many Thanks to Doug!! We hope that he comes back this way soon.

The dance floor was packed and it was so nice to see everyone out there swinging and smiling around the floor. Mary Lee! I think those dance lessons are really catching on!!

We all got to wish Rosie a very happy 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, while she and her dance partner, glided around the dance floor. Apparently 92 is the new 40. Happy Birthday Rosie!!



Susan and Paul Cooper

(Continued on page 10, April Showcase . . .)

(Continued from page 9, April Showcase Highlights . . .)

### The jam session was big fun, as always.

Our Jam started with Denny Perrigoue sitting in on Drums, Geno Burbank still on Guitar, Paul Cooper on Bass and Vocals, Neal Jeans also on Guitar and vocals, Pat Rowe on Steel, and our own VP- Jerry Seitz came up to play a his electric fiddle. Wow! What a lineup!!

Paul Cooper sang for us the western swing tribute song "Lonestar Beer and Bob Wills Music." Next he crooned out "Make the World Go Away" and "Silver Wings." Neal Jeans gave us his wonderful renditions of "Pass Me By," "Muddy Water," and "Heartaches by the Number". Way to go, Neal and Paul!!

The Fellas were joined by none other than NWWSMS Hall of Fame member, our very own Darryl Haddock, who swept us away with his big beautiful voice singing "The Other Woman" We love you, Darryl!!

Bill Metz then joined the stage to bring us the "Beautiful Kentucky Waltz" and "Is Anybody going to San Antone?" Thanks Bill! Great job!!

NWWSMS's own Dave Wheeler came up to play some bass for a while. Thanks Dave!!

Tony Bachelor took the stage with his big beautiful White Gretsch guitar, singing "Truck Driving Man," "Tonight the Bottle Let Me Down," "I've had a Beautiful Time," and one of his original songs, "How Can I Get Over You." Hot Dog!! He just shook us out and hung us up to dry!! Wow! Thanks for the show, Tony!!!

Our new friend, Rod Blackman, with his big upright bass, and my honey, Steve Carter, on Lead Guitar, joined the jam, backing longtime jammer and friend, Dave Enslow on the "Rose of Old Pawnee." That's a new favorite for me!!

Next, Steve Carter sang another of my favorites, Willie Nelson's "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground" and I snuck back up to sing a little harmony. Then Steve played his haunting rendition of "Faded Love." So Beautiful!!

To close out our Jam session, NWWSMS Pres, (and incidentally, this month's split-the-pot winner - donated back to the Society) Jeanne Yearian, played her beautiful electric fiddle. Dave DuChane came up to play some rhythm guitar then sang a few verses of "Gotta Travel On" ( .....I've laid



Jammers Pat Rowe with Neal Jeans.

## Showcase Band for April Southern Comfort



Pictured above from top, left to right: Dave DuChane, Shelley McNaughton, Geno Burbank, Robert Van den Akker

around and played around, this old town too long.... Ooooh! now it's stuck in my head....) No more traveling for you for a while, Mr. DuChane. We're keeping you close to home!! Lastly, Steve and Pat took us out with a quick little turn of the always popular, "Guitar Boogie."

What a great jam!! Thanks to everyone who participated. We love to hear you!! Please come back and join us again!!

We would like to once again thank the Lynnwood Eagles for all of the their care and attention during our monthly showcases. Thanks for making us feel so welcome!!

We would also like to thank all of the volunteers, for their support of Western Swing music, especially Carla and Vesta Neue, for their tireless efforts in selling split the pot tickets. They are like our very own ambassadors of good will.

Next month the showcase host band will be **Kristi Nebel and Cowgirl's Dream!** We are so looking forward to hearing them!!

We also can't wait to welcome back to the Northwest, so many of our members who travel south each winter. (Hello fellow board member Sharon Capps! It will be so nice to see your face in person, other than just on Skype.)

Welcome home everyone!!

I look forward to seeing everyone next month!!



(Texas Dancehall Preservation Tour continued from page 6 . . . )

What is it that make Texas dance halls such special venues to perform in? Why do you like playing at these halls so much?

**RB:** In our opinion, this is the birthplace of Texas music. From Bob Wills to Willie Nelson to George Strait, this is where we cut our teeth, playing for four hours entertaining and keepin' people on the dance floor and having a good time. Also, the architecture and rustic beauty is also what makes them so special. Not one dance hall is the same, and they each offer something wonderful and unique to themselves.

Was this the first time many people on this tour had encountered dance halls before? Were you able to expose a lot of new people to these historic venues, or maybe introduce longtime fans of dance halls to new halls or new elements of their history?

**SS:** I know we had a lot of people who had been to a dance hall or two before, but I also know we took them to dance halls they had never been to, or even heard of before. We wanted to showcase all the halls, from the ones everyone knows to the smaller, lesser-known halls.

The daytime tours that Texas Dance Hall Preservation did really gave our guests a deep insight into the culture and history of each hall, and I know everyone really enjoyed getting to hear about the history.

Overall, how did the tour go? Were you pleased with the turnout?

**SS:** We were thrilled to have so many people from so many different states—that really surprised us. [There were people] from California, Wisconsin, Washington, Florida, etc. It was just really great to see the interest from [all over] in our Texas culture and music.

Probably the biggest surprise was being filmed at Twin Sisters [in Blanco] for NBC's coverage of the golf tournament in Austin, The Dell Match Play. They wanted to show a teaser of what it would be like to be at a dance in Texas, so they came down and filmed us and showed off the hall and the dancers.



*Asleep At The Wheel and the Quebe Sisters performing at Fair Pavilion Hall, built in 1925, located in La Grange, Texas*



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## Top 10 Western Swing & Traditional Country for May 2017

### Top Ten CDs

1. *Kid Sister*, Time Jumpers
2. *Live in Chicago*, Susie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas
3. *For the Good Times - A Tribute to Ray Price*, Willie Nelson
4. *It's a Good Day*, Asleep At The Wheel & Leon Rausch
5. *Old Pictures in a New Frame*, Brady Bowen and Swing Country
6. *Green Mountain Standard Time*, Rick Norcross
7. *This Is Tommy Duncan, Vol. 1*, Billy Mata & The Texas Tradition
8. *The Gift*, Barbara Nelson
9. *Cold in Colorado*, Chuck Cusimano
10. *Legends*, Coby Carter

### Top Ten Songs

1. *Invitation to the Blues*, Willie Nelson
2. *Sleepwalk*, Gary Carpenter
3. *The Fugitive*, Brady Bowen & Swing Country/Mike Poe
4. *My Life's Been A Pleasure*, Bobby Flores and the Yellow Rose Band
5. *I Hear You Talkin'*, Suzie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas
6. *It's a Good Day*, Asleep At The Wheel & Leon Rausch
7. *You Lied to Me*, Andy Martin (Switzerland)
8. *Scratched and Weathered*, Carolyn Sills Combo
9. *You've Got a Friend*, Barbara Nelson
10. *What's The Matter With The Mill*, The Saddle Cats

### Any final thoughts?

**SS:** We are going to be announcing shortly our Fall Tour, coming up in October [2017]. We are still putting together the logistics, but we're excited to continue to offer what we feel is a great week of Texas fun. To make sure to get all updates and information, you can go to [www.texasdancehalltour.com](http://www.texasdancehalltour.com) or our [Facebook](#) page, and sign up for our newsletter updates. We hope to keep doing these tours for many years to come, as there are still hundreds of different regions and dance halls to showcase!

## Free Western Swing workshops in Weiser, Idaho



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 14th through Sunday, June 18th, 2017, 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 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 ea 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!  
For more information, please contact Jerry Seitz.

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### Showcase Dance and Jam

May 18, 19 & 20, 2017

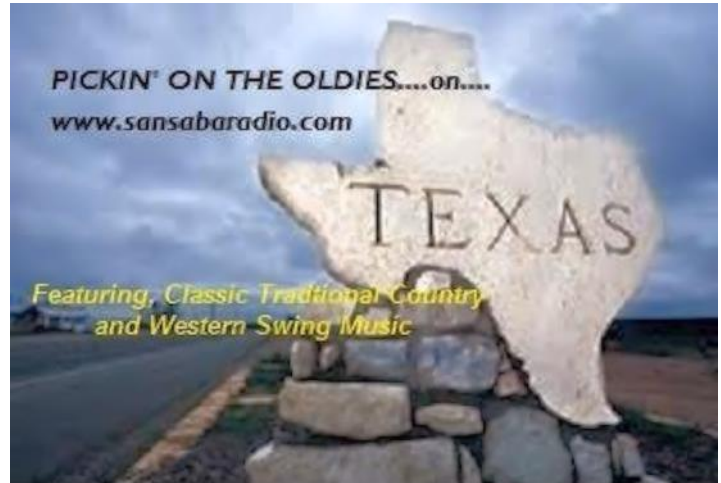
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Skeebo Norris

### May Playlist for "Skeebo's Line Shack Review"

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Western Swing Authority - *Barnyard Boogie*

Jeff Woolsey - *I'll Be There*

Kelly Spinks - *Fiddler's Lady*

Billy Mata - *Honky Tonk Stardust Cowboy*

Jake Hooker - *Texas Dancehall Girl*

Nolan Bruce Allen - *Somewhere South of San Antone*

Chuck Cusimano - *You Taught Me All I Know*

Cowjazz - *Rosetta*

Dan Roberts - *The Swing I Love the Most*

Brennen Leigh - *I Love You a Thousand Ways*

Artists may send mp3 submissions to [production@sansabaradio.com](mailto:production@sansabaradio.com) and personal messages to [skeebo@sansabaradio.com](mailto:skeebo@sansabaradio.com). We are on Facebook as well... Pickin' On The Oldies. To listen go to our website [www.sansabaradio.com](http://www.sansabaradio.com)



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(Editor's Note: Texas has two great festivals in the month of June - West Texas Western Swing Festival Snyder and The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival in Wichita Falls . . . just a week apart adds up to a lot of dancin' and great music. Both were born from the same couple, driven by the same passion: preserving America's western swing music while promoting those who carry on this tradition. For her contributions, Gloria Miers was inducted into the NWWSMS Hall of Fame in 2007. Below is the Readers Digest version of the history behind The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival., celebrating 30 years.!)

Music producers, Gloria and Dewey Miers, have been instrumental in keeping the boots tappin' and feet dancin' to the tunes of Western Swing music for the past 25 years. 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" 25 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 has grown the Festival to crowds in excess of 4,000 fans. She prides herself in bringing to her stage only the best musicians Western Swing has to offer and hosts fans from around the country, as well as England, Japan, Canada and Australia.

Gloria lives a blessed life in Plano, Texas, when her horse isn't hitched to the wagon and on its way to promote her show...the trails all lead to Wichita Falls, the third weekend of every June. ([For more info, click here.](#))

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## May 2017 Playlist for "Wyn on Tuesday"

1. *Heart Over Mind*, Brady Bowen
2. *Someone Had to Teach You*, The Time Jumpers
3. *One More Memory to Go*, Cowboy Joe Babcock
4. *Bring It On Down to My House*, The Cactus Swing Band
5. *Spring Has Come*, Hot Texas Swing Band
6. *Crazy Yodelin' Blues*, The Swing Billies
7. *San Antonio Waltz*, Chuck Cusimano
8. *Tomorrow I'll Cry*, Jody Nix
9. *Milk Cow Blues*, Al Dressen
10. *Crazy 'Cause I Love You*, Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas

Artists are welcome to send cds to:

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