

TOLL-FREE INFOLINE REPORT **PLUS E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE & FACEBOOK INQUIRIES**

Report to the Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation, Penticton – Friday August 10, 2018. By Brian Elmer, volunteer receptionist

Note that this report contains active internet links that should be “clickable” as long as the document is in electronic form

Background

The B.C. Square and Round Dance Federation’s toll-free INFOLINE was established many years ago as an overall source of dance information via telephone for the dance community and the general public.

Furthermore, it serves as the telephone number for the B.C. Federation in matters relating to the organization.

The number 1-800-335-9433 “re-directs” to the home of volunteer receptionists Brian Elmer and his wife, Rosalyn Garnett, in West Kelowna. Contracted with Telus, charges incurred to the number are billed to the treasurer of the Federation. The number currently connects only within B.C.

Inquiries also come via e-mail and those are documented below. Some of those were prompted by persons viewing the promotional “landing page” when they click on paid advertising (SquareDanceFun.info) or free publicity (such as on Twitter) done by SQUAREUPB.C.

Additional inquiries sometimes come to us through the B.C. Federation’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation>) and those are documented below, if any.

Note that the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society also maintains a toll-free information line which is 1-866-206-6696. At this point, the number connects calls from the U.S. The volunteers on the end of that line are Ron and Jan Mills of West Kelowna.

At the end of this report, see a “Special Addendum” that addresses a change in INFOLINE ownership and expansion of the service area beyond British Columbia.

Note that the previous INFOLINE call-tracking report from July 2, 2017 to March 17, 2018, prepared for the April 7/18 B.O.D. in Abbotsford, can be read online at:

<http://squaredance.bc.ca/images/bod2018/InfolineReport-April2018BOD.pdf>

INFOLINE Call-tracking –March 18, 2018 to August 6, 2018

As calls come in to the INFOLINE, an effort is made to document each, noting the name & city of the caller, the nature of the inquiry and the action taken to satisfy the caller. For cost efficiency, most responses are sent by e-mail when queries cannot be answered immediately over the phone.

For privacy purposes, names and contact information in this report have been abbreviated or deleted. That information can be furnished to eligible persons through a request sent to dancinglikethestars@gmail.com

The following list of calls received is chronological:

Sunday March 25, 2018 – 1:16 pm – Call from Deb H. of Qualicum Beach, BC (message left on answering machine). She called to inquire if spectators are welcome to a new square dancer event (Freshman Frolic) near Parksville at the Bradley Centre in Coombs. The dance was that same afternoon. She simply wanted to watch friends dancing. Unfortunately, her call could not be returned in timely fashion because the Infoline receptionists were out of town for a couple days. She left both her phone number and e-mail address which facilitated a response.

Action taken:

E-mail response sent March 27, 2018 –

Subject: Reply to INFOLINE Inquiry re: Dancing at Parksville

Hello Deb. Thank you for your recent inquiry made to the toll-free INFOLINE of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation.

My wife and I are volunteer receptionists and we regret having been briefly out of town at the time of your call. Thank you for leaving your contact information on our messaging system.

It's understood that the event about which you inquired has come and gone. It's anticipated that you were asking about the "2018 Freshman Frolic" at the Bradley Centre in Coombs. It took place Sunday (March 25) from 2 to 4 pm and was especially for new square dancers who've had several lessons thus far.

We hope that you did attend as a spectator because visitors are usually most welcome to attend any square, round or clog dance event at one of our member clubs or associations. In this case, the dance was sponsored by the Upper Vancouver Island Caller Teachers Association.

We had a copy of the ad for the event but would have had to look up a contact person for you although, again, you would have been welcome regardless.

There's another dance upcoming at the Bradley Centre on Sunday April 29, presented by the Dancers' Association. It's for round dancers and those accomplished in the Mainstream Program of square dancing. There's round dancing only from 2:00 to 2:30 pm, then square and round dancing from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Both the square dance caller and the round dance cuer are a couple of talented ladies, Fran and Wendie.

You might like to explore the web page for the Upper Island square & round dance community (including some Lower Island dance events) at the following link: <http://region8.squaredance.bc.ca/> Scroll down there for a look at various posters.

Should you be contemplating joining the fun, the next lessons in the Oceanside area will take place in the fall of this year. You'd be so VERY welcome! Frankly, it's perfect timing to learn square dancing because some very special dance events will take place in 2019 & 2020. Here's a list with links to some of those special large dances:

- Festival 2019 Salmon Arm – July 11 to 13, 2019 – 3-days of dancing featuring square dancing, round dancing, clog dancing and contra dancing. Web page: <http://bcfestival2019.com>
- Peachfest Square Dance Festival, August 7 to 10, 2019, Penticton. This is actually an annual event but new dancers would be eligible for the one in 2019. Web page: <https://peachfest.com/peachfest-events/be-active-at-peachfest/peachfest-square-dance-festival>
- U.S. National Convention in Spokane, Washington, June 17 to 20, 2020. Web page: <http://www.squaredancespokane.org/2020-national-convention.html> **SPECIAL NOTE: See an impressive floor of over 1,500 square dancers at the last National in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDHFN6bhp8I>**
- Canadian National Convention in Surrey (Sheraton Guildford Hotel), July 29 to August 1, 2020. Everyone in B.C. is excited that this big national dance will be in Surrey in 2020. The B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation has posted a web page for the event that serves to provide the initial details until the national Society posts a page. See: <http://squaredance.bc.ca/2020> Taking place every two years, there's an upcoming convention in London, Ontario, with 620 dancers registered to date. See: <http://www.squaredance.ca/2018/>

See our provincial organization's promotional page at: SquareDanceFun.info

Monitor the listings for your region with regard to new dancer lessons at: <http://squaredancefun.squaredance.bc.ca/#Parksville>

For a general overview of square dancing, see a U.S.-based promotional page for square, round and contra dancing called "You 2 Can Dance:" <http://www.you2candance.com/square-dancing>
To watch the video, click the #1 icon in the lower right of the picture window then in the lower left click on "Click here to see what square dancing is all about."

Thanks, again, for your phone inquiry. Sorry to have missed your call in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Brian Elmer (Rosalyn Garnett), West Kelowna
Volunteer Receptionists - Toll-free INFOLINE
The B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation
-- representing 2,000 dancers province-wide
brian@squaredance.bc.ca
1-800-335-9433

Monday April 23, 2018 – 12:22 pm – Call from Bob (Dorothy) S. of Nanaimo. Bob calls for the Wheelarounds square dance club. He related that he was gifted a substantial number of vinyl records of round dance music, many with cues on one side & instrumental on the other as well as pop recordings. Cue sheets accompany the various round dance tunes. A cuer in California retired and offered him the music. Bob asked when the Okanagan Square & Round Dance Assn. will present their Cues' Seminar with the idea that some of the new cuers might like to acquire some of the records.

Action taken:

Bob was given contact information for the clinicians at the Cues' Seminar, Peter & Stella Tennant of Vernon, as well as their club's web page address (www.VernonRoundDanceFun.info). He and his wife are interested in attending the seminar and would make the availability of the records known to participants.

Fri. May 25, 2018 – 6:51 pm

The following call might not have been via the INFOLINE:

Fri. May 25, 2018 - L. & C. W. of Kelowna called seeking dance information for the Central Okanagan and a message was returned.

Mon. May 28, 2018 – 10:23 am – Call from Al T., Gibsons, BC.

He called as a friend to Marilyn--they go to the same church. He and his wife are not square dancers. Marilyn H. (former dancer in Coquitlam) has a square dance outfit with crinoline in a small size and would be happy to donate it to a club or lady who'd like to have it. Marilyn's phone no. was left.

Action taken:

In a return telephone call to Al, it was stated that the offer of the dance outfit was appreciated and it would surely be accepted by one of our Federation dancers or a club for a clothing sale. It was suggested that Marilyn call the INFOLINE to give more details. She was given the number.

Mon. June 18, 2018 – 9:47 am – Call from Richard F. of the Surrey Square Wheelers to ask where the Festival 2019 event will take place. He hasn't spotted that detail in the Festival literature he picked up. He's been attending the Chase the Fun weekend in the Shuswap area and plans to drive on to Salmon Arm to investigate what RV camping will be available during the Festival.

Action taken: He was directed to the Festival's web page at www.BCFestival2019.com and the accommodation and camping information located there. He was happy to search it out online.

Wed. June 20, 2018 – 3:59 pm – Call from “Kevin” in Vancouver. He’s a songwriter and artist known as “Rokky Mountain” who also drives truck & has a Lower Mainland base but normally lives in Vernon. He inquired about the possibility that square dancing could be incorporated into a Dragon Boat opening musical performance. He has square danced himself. A caller would have to identify some choreography that the dancers could memorize because the performance wouldn’t include a caller. As a songwriter, he has worked before with Dragon Boat Festivals at their opening events, such as in Vancouver and Harrison Hot Springs. He’s planning ahead for a Festival to take place in the Spring of 2019 that may have a “breast cancer survivor” theme. A song that he wrote for the Fraser Valley Dragon Boat Club was posted with dragon boat video on YouTube in August, 2013. It can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEopHiwvYM> (4 min’s in duration). Contact information was left.

Action taken:

(Note: a power failure purged the INFOLINE answering machine of all recorded messages but this caller was found by searching another phone’s caller ID list.)

June 28/18 - He was phoned in Vancouver seeking more information. Follow-up contact was made by e-mail that included details on the Lower Mainland area square/round dance clubs with web links and a link to the FRSRDA’s Promotion Committee.

Actual e-mail response of June 28/18:

Hello Kevin. It was fun to speak with you by phone after receiving your almost-lost call to our INFOLINE on June 20th.

Thanks for thinking of square dancing as a tie-in to your songwriting relative to Dragon Boat festivities.

We can certainly help link you up with various Lower Mainland (& elsewhere) square dance clubs.

Three of those clubs mentioned on the phone are as follows:

Surrey Square Wheelers: <http://www.surrey.squaredance.bc.ca/SSW/index.html>

Swinging Singles (& couples), Burnaby: <http://swingingsinglesbc-ca.webs.com/>

Squares Across the Border, Vancouver (a gender neutral dance club): <http://www.squaresacrosstheborder.org/>

Also, the square & round dance clubs in the Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley have a Promotion Committee that might like to work with you on entertainment at future Dragon Boat Festivals. Here's a link to their information page:

http://www.region2.squaredance.bc.ca/promo_committee.html

Your advance planning is appreciated!

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna

Volunteer Receptionist - Toll-free INFOLINE (1-800-335-9433)

Chairperson, SQUAREUPB.C. - a marketing initiative of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation

brian@squaredance.bc.ca

Sun. July 22, 2018 – 5 pm – Call from Marge N. of Parksville to inquire about room availability during BC Festival 2019 in Salmon Arm. Contact and e-mail information was left.

Action taken:

In an e-mail response on the next day, she was directed to the Festival’s web page listing accommodation options at <http://bcfestival2019.com/accommodations/> and welcomed to call the INFOLINE again should she have further questions.

Actual e-mail response of July 23/18:

Hello Marge in Parksville.

Thanks very much for using the B.C. Federation's toll-free INFOLINE to inquire about room availability during BC Festival 2019 in Salmon Arm, July 11 to 13.

The Festival Committee has certainly been actively identifying various properties to house the dancers during the event. Rooms have been "block-reserved" at several locations at a special rate. (To qualify for those rates you have to let the property know that you're coming for BC Festival 2019.)

The best source of information can be found in the accommodation section on the Festival's web page: <http://bcfestival2019.com/accommodations>

On that web page, note that the first grouping of hotel/motel/campground/RV properties are those that have blocked rooms or space for the Festival. The next grouping shows all the possibilities sorted by the distance to the Shaw Centre Festival dance venue.

Also, you can click on the type of accommodation for which you're looking including:

- Bed & Breakfasts
- Cabins
- Hotels & Motels
- Houseboat
- Resorts
- RV & Campgrounds

Note that Trail In and Trail Out dances are planned for the evening of Wed. July 10 and the morning of Sun. July 14. You might like to adjust your travel & accommodation plans in order to attend those.

I'll add Rennie Heare's e-mail here, so that he can see this message. Rennie is our accommodations volunteer.

Should I be able to help you further, feel free to call the INFOLINE anytime at 1-800-335-9433.

Be sure to register now for the Festival in order to qualify for some early-bird prizes and get the lowest registration rate. (<http://bcfestival2019.com/register>). You can do so today with confidence because, should you have to cancel closer to the Festival, full refunds are available up to June 15, 2019.

Happy dancing at the Festival!

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna
 Volunteer Receptionist
 Toll-free INFOLINE of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation
brian@squaredance.bc.ca

E-mail inquiry tracking –March 18, 2018 to August 6, 2018

Sat. April 14, 2018, 12:04 pm - Email from Sharon S. of the Lower Mainland inquiring if there are any clog dance clubs in Vancouver or North Vancouver. She wrote that she'd like to try clogging. A contact e-mail address was left.

Reply sent within a half hour of receiving the inquiry:

Hello, Sharon, from the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation. Thank you for your inquiry.

Within the membership of our provincial organization there are several clog dance clubs but, unfortunately, none close to you. We have many clubs on Vancouver Island and two in the Okanagan Valley. There's also a non-member club in Cranbrook (Rocky Mountain Cloggers).

Might you like to be informed when an introductory session to clogging is offered by one of our clubs, even if it means some travelling? If you initially want to try the dance form, that might satisfy your inquisitiveness.

We did have active clogging clubs in Burnaby and Coquitlam but the "callers" had to close their clubs due to health issues.

It may be that there's some clogging just across the border in Washington State and that could be investigated for you if you wish.

Although the web page for our clogging club serving the Central and North Okanagan needs updating, you might like to peruse the information about clogging, including videos, that they have at the following link: KelownaClogDanceFun.info

Out of curiosity, how did you find our contact information, please? Also, what sparked your interest in learning to clog?

Thanks, again, for your inquiry.

Brian Elmer, West Kelowna
Volunteer Receptionist
E-mail, Facebook and toll-free INFOLINE inquiries (1-800-335-9433)
British Columbia Square & Round Dance Federation
brian@squaredance.bc.ca

Wed. July 25, 2018 – 3:02 pm - Email from Marjorie N. of Parksville in follow-up to information sent her about BC Festival 2019 accommodations. She explained that she was experiencing obstacles to identifying a potential hotel/motel booking. She left her e-mail address.

Copy of inquiry:

Thanks for your reply Brian. I looked at the accommodation section on the website again and then made a few phone calls. It takes a lot of convincing to get SD prices and room availability information for next July. I was told they were completely booked when I phoned one place but when I phoned back the next day and talked to the manager I got better information. I will check on RV campgrounds as well. Dry camping is definitely not an option with July temperatures there.

Marge N.

Reply sent within a half hour of receiving the inquiry:

Thanks, Marge, for confirming receipt of Festival 2019 accommodation information by e-mail following your call to the INFOLINE.

Yes, we've been concerned that not all the front desk persons at hotel/motel properties seem to be aware of the blocked rooms for the Festival. You did right to persist and call back to a manager. We'll work on resolving that situation.

Most of all, we want you to feel confident that we'll help you in whatever way to locate suitable accommodation. You might like to communicate directly by e-mail or phone with our accommodation volunteer, Rennie Heare. He lives in the Shuswap and the information that you give Rennie will help him fine-tune searches and results for accommodation.

I know that there's a plan to show it on the Festival's accommodation page when a property is fully booked at the time of the Festival. There's no point having Festival registrants call such properties if there's "no room at the inn."

Contacts for Rennie:
bcrheare10@gmail.com
Phone: 250-835-8510

Thanks very much for your interest in BC Festival 2019. Please pre-register now if you haven't already (<http://bcfestival2019.com/register/>). It's going to be a great event!

Best regards,
Brian Elmer, West Kelowna
Volunteer Receptionist
Toll-free INFOLINE - 1-800-335-9433
B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation
brian@squaredance.bc.ca

Tues. July 31, 2018 - Email from square dancer Jean M. in Greater Victoria asking to learn more about running a paid social media campaign (Facebook). She heard of the success of our Facebook advertising through SQUAREUPB.C. for the promotion of lessons and wants to discuss what's required in conducting a campaign. Her interest is with regard to supporting the Royal Oak Women's Institute Hall and possibly her own hobby business. She left phone and e-mail contact information.

Action taken: A day later (Aug. 1), she was sent details regarding advertising on Facebook and the process by which an advertiser engages Facebook users.

Fri. Aug. 3, 2018 - Email from a round dance cuer named Barb Y. in Forth Worth, Texas, inquiring about our workshops and 12-week dance program as conducted in British Columbia. She explained that she is currently co-teaching two step & is about to teach waltz.

She left her e-mail address.

Action taken:

On Mon. Aug. 6, at the end of the B.C. Day Holiday weekend, she was contacted by e-mail to inquire further about exactly what workshops and 12-week programs she was asking. It's speculated that she may have read online about round dance workshops conducted in the Okanagan Valley in recent times. A Valley square dance club runs an introductory 12-week program, similar to the West Coast Program, that starts in Sept. and continues in the new year with another approx. 13 weeks to push the newcomers on to the full Mainstream program.

Facebook inquiries during the period March 18, 2018 to August 6, 2018

Wed. March 21, 2018, 12:30 am - Via the B.C. Federation's Facebook page
(www.Facebook.com/BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation)



Forrest Walker (pseudonym)

Are there active square-dancing clubs in Victoria, by any chance?

Response:

Hello Forrest Walker (pseudonym) from the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation.

In answer to your inquiry, there certainly are square dance clubs in Victoria and they have a long history in the city.

See a complete list on the web page for the regional dance organization, the Lower Vancouver Island Western Square & Round Dance Association. Here's a link to their Directory of Clubs where you'll find that the club names seen in a grid will jump to the information when you click on them (or simply scroll down the page):

<http://www.region1.squaredance.bc.ca/1cities.shtml>

Are you inquiring because you have taken square lessons and are interested in participating?

We promote all of our member dance clubs when they conduct lessons, usually in the fall and some in the winter (Jan./Feb.). Our provincial body embraces not just square dancing but also round dancing (choreographed ballroom done to live cues) and clog dancing.

See our listing for your region at the following link, understanding that much of the information is dated at this point until the fall lessons are planned:

<http://squaredancefun.squaredance.bc.ca/index.html#1003>

See that web page from the start at: www.SquareDanceFun.info

Our provincial organization purchased paid Facebook advertising in promotion of several Greater Victoria square dance clubs. You might enjoy viewing those ads at the following links. (Be sure to activate the "play" icon to see our video slideshows.) Most are fall promotions and the last shown is for a winter start-up in January of this year:

Victoria & District Caller Teachers Assn.

<https://www.facebook.com/423356377709725/posts/507867529558830>

Frontier Twirlers

<https://www.facebook.com/423356377709725/posts/516899678655615>

Mavericks

<https://www.facebook.com/423356377709725/posts/515295562149360>

Promenaders

<https://www.facebook.com/423356377709725/posts/564281433917439>

Just for fun, you might enjoy an impressive video showing a floor of over 1,000 square dancers having fun last summer in Cincinnati. See the following YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDHFN6bhp8I&t=64s>

We look forward to your response, please!

^be

Additional correspondence to same Facebook inquiry:

Fri. March 23, 2018, 8:03 pm - Via the B.C. Federation's Facebook page



Forrest Walker (pseudonym)

Thanks for your quick reply, and all the links. 😊

To be honest, my last exposure to square-dancing was in elementary or junior high school, some 25+ years ago, but it's always something that stuck with me as interesting.

My primary interest, in both square and round dancing, is as more of a casual/social participant, than one who'd perform or compete. Of course, I'd have to start as a student; I've no memory of what I learned, but Youtube is a source for inspiration.

In addition, I'd be interested in meeting fiddlers, if (on an off-chance) there are such at gatherings, etc.

Response:

Good to hear back from you!

COME HAVE LOADS OF FUN!...

It would be great to have your participation on the square dance floor and the recommended process to "brush up" would be one of the new square dancer classes starting in the fall of this year. Monitor our promotional web page starting about late August to learn what clubs will offer sessions for you:

<http://squaredancefun.squaredance.bc.ca/index.html#1003>

EVENTS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND AND BEYOND...

Events in the square and round dance community on Vancouver Island are well-represented on an on-going internet calendar. For newer dancers, many clubs (and often their regional associations) present special dances for newcomers, sometimes called a "Freshmen's Frolic."

See the many listings by month for Vancouver Island at the following link:

<http://www.region1.squaredance.bc.ca/calindex.htm>

Also, the fall of this year would be perfect timing to learn or brush up on square dancing because some very special dance events will take place in 2019 & 2020. Here's a list with links to some of those special large dances:

- Festival 2019 Salmon Arm – July 11 to 13, 2019 – 3-days of dancing featuring square dancing, round dancing, clog dancing and contra dancing. Web page: <http://bcfestival2019.com>
- Peachfest Square Dance Festival, August 7 to 10, 2019, Penticton. This is actually an annual event but new dancers would be eligible for the one in 2019. Web page: <https://peachfest.com/peachfest-events/be-active-at-peachfest/peachfest-square-dance-festival>
- U.S. National Convention in Spokane, Washington, June 17 to 20, 2020. Web page: <http://www.squaredancespokane.org/2020-national-convention.html>
- Canadian National Convention in Surrey (Sheraton Guildford Hotel), July 29 to August 1, 2020. Everyone in B.C. is excited that this big national dance will be in Surrey in 2020. The B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation has posted a web page for the event that serves to provide the initial details until the national Society posts a page. See: <http://squaredance.bc.ca/2020> Taking place every two years, there's an upcoming convention in London, Ontario, with 620 dancers registered to date. See: <http://www.squaredance.ca/2018/>

ABOUT TODAY'S SQUARE DANCING...

The activity is mostly non-competitive, accenting the socialization, fun and fitness. You start dancing and having loads of fun at the very first lesson. Over time you make many new friends.

Today's style of square dancing has evolved since its earlier traditional form. Now, the dancer learns the individual calls which the caller puts together in endless possible routines.

Once you learn the calls (about 50 in the condensed programs, 68 in the most common full "Mainstream" program) you just have to listen to the caller to know what direction to travel.

This system has made for much greater participation because it's not based upon memorizing routines but upon the separate calls. Furthermore, the calls have been standardized in the English language worldwide, presenting wonderful opportunities for travel (including cruising).

The calls are arranged into programs of increasing complexity, identified as:

- Basic
- Mainstream (most common)
- Plus
- Advanced
- Challenge

PRIMARILY A NON-COMPETITIVE ACTIVITY—EXCEPT FOR YOUTH...

In general, square, round and clog dancing are non-competitive, especially among adult dancers.

Youth participants are an exception, largely because in our part of North America we have the annual Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival competition.

The event alternates between Canada and the U.S. It was in Langley, BC, in 2017 and this year it's in Silverton, Oregon. Along with many Washington and Oregon clubs, two youth clubs from B.C. compete: Wesburn Wranglers of Burnaby & Delta Sundancers of Surrey.

See some great YouTube coverage of that event at:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=pntsdf+2017 (just change the year if you want to see earlier competitions—i.e. search YouTube for "pntsdf 2016").

ABOUT THE MUSIC...

In the modern square dance movement, all the music is recorded except for very special events. Live musicians on fiddle, banjo and bass are more apt to be found at old-time, traditional square dance events.

There is one particular square dance band that often appears at U.S. National Square Dance Conventions. They're called the "Ghost Riders" and a YouTube video showing them with 4 callers at the 2014 U.S. National can be seen at the following link (4 min's, 12 sec.'s): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgqvC1OuoIY> (dancers can be seen at about the 3 minute mark).

ONLINE SQUARE DANCE INSTRUCTION...

For a general overview of square dancing, see a U.S.-based promotional page for square, round and contra dancing called "You 2 Can Dance:" <http://www.you2candance.com/square-dancing>

To watch the video, click the #1 icon in the lower right of the picture window then in the lower left click on "Click here to see what square dancing is all about."

Learn about round dancing at: <http://www.you2candance.com/round-dancing>

One of the best YouTube series of square dance instruction is made available by the Cyberpoint Channel (https://www.youtube.com/user/cyberpoint/videos?disable_polymer=1) For instance, see a starting lesson in the "Mainstream" program at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-wDn9QRjJ0&t=1s>

ABOUT OLD-TIME SQUARE DANCING...

Your reference to fiddlers brought to mind the fact that in some parts of the U.S. and Canada old-time traditional square dancing is enjoyed but usually on special dates.

The old time square dance movement is popular in Seattle and there have been some well-attended dances in Vancouver, BC. They call that movement "Dare to be Square West."

A particularly good video about Dare to be Square West (from 2013) can be seen on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP5WjL8G8Kc&t=212s>

See more about the Seattle group--going by the name "Seattle Subversive Square Dance Society"--at the following link (be sure to play their video to see all the fun):

<http://www.oldtimeseattle.com/ssss.html>

Link to Dare to be Square West Portland, Oregon, group:

<http://www.daretobesquarewest.org/>

There's a monthly old-time square dance in Vancouver, BC, that takes place at the Wise Hall, 1882 Adanac Street (click here for a map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/qgd37hdTdT12>). The dances are usually **Fridays** at 8 pm. For a 43 second YouTube sample of the style of dancing from October, 2013, click here:

<https://youtu.be/Y2kp4cJVS7A>.

A young fellow named Paul Silveria (calling himself "Professor Banjo") calls old-time square dances. See his home page on the web at:

<http://www.professorbanjo.com/>

See their dance calendar at the following link:

<http://www.professorbanjo.com/calendar/>

We trust that it will be obvious how we know today's style of square dancing and related dance forms to be ideal for fun, fitness and friendship and, overall, a great experience!

Hope to meet you on the dance floor sometime soon!

^be

Special Addendum:

Change of INFOLINE "ownership" and consideration of expansion of the service area

Ownership Change

The INFOLINE has been managed for many years by Nick Turner of Williams Lake, a past-president in the B.C. Federation. He has asked to be relieved of the responsibility and the appropriate paperwork has been initiated with Telus, the service provider. Those acquiring the service are considered a business, even though ours is task-oriented instead of profit oriented.

Telus requires that a specific person or persons manage and hold authorization for a toll-free number—even if for a non-profit agency. The plan is to shift the task to two persons: the current Federation Treasurer, Pat Zeeman of Victoria, and Brian Elmer of West Kelowna, Chairperson of the SQUAREUPB.C. marketing initiative and current receptionist for INFOLINE calls.

...continued

Expansion of Service Area

In the promotion of BC Festival 2019 in Salmon Arm and Convention 2020 in Surrey, interest has been expressed in the expansion of the geographic reach for our toll-free INFOLINE. It was originally set up through Telus to only be active in the province of British Columbia. There are occasions, though, when it would serve us well to be active across Canada and into the U.S.

A case in point arose relative to Festival 2017 in Surrey when a Washington State dancer tried to get information via our INFOLINE. The American citizen's phone service told them that the number is not applicable in the U.S.

The INFOLINE number was displayed on Festival literature in that dancer's possession but no alternate phone numbers were shown. This prospective Festival registrant was left without a resolution to reach a "real person" for a telephone inquiry.

Organizers of our next BC Festival at Salmon Arm in 2019 are appealing broadly across Canada and into the United States to have dancers, callers & cuers pre-register. Expansion of the service area to reach those who live outside B.C. could be helpful to that and future provincial Festivals.

The INFOLINE reports submitted to the Board of Directors Meetings and the Annual General Meeting reveal that the service receives many varied inquiries. It is anticipated that the public accesses our number largely from the fact it is displayed on The Dance Connection's home page (lower right) – www.SquareDance.bc.ca

The cost of an expansion in the service area basically involves a one time charge of \$25 to make the revision. The fee to operate the INFOLINE 1-800 service would continue at \$8.95 per month.

Of course, if the coverage is expanded, there's the potential that an increased number of incoming calls will cost the Federation more. We're currently paying 35 cents a minute on each incoming call. A representative at Telus has said that the per call rate might be raised to 50 cents/minute but didn't think so.

The current practice upon receiving an inquiry is to learn from the caller what information they seek then, if not answerable immediately, e-mail a detailed reply provided they have access to e-mail. This helps to ensure that incoming calls are not lengthy.

Another opinion about the toll-free line is that people should learn to use the internet instead. That's all very well but we are a "people-oriented" recreation. We're not selling inanimate objects. We need to be able to present a real person when dancers want information and a warm response from a human voice over the telephone can help. It can "close the deal" when it comes to getting people to register or attend our events.

Also, in some cases with regard to some of our older dancers, they are not internet-savvy and might not even own a computer.

Our toll-free service needs to be able to serve the various needs of the dancers, wherever they live, and to serve as a "sales tool" in attracting them to our events. We can't have dysfunctional communications in place. The ability for people to talk to people is important in advancing our recreation.

This issue will be presented to the general membership at the Annual General Meeting in Penticton on August 10, 2018.

- Brian Elmer

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