

60th Anniversary Poster



by Verna Brown

History of Surrey Square Wheelers

by Bonnie Hartup

The Early Beginnings of the Club in 1960

Dorothy and Bill Danielson of Surrey danced with a group in Surrey called “The Country Cousins” and their caller was Don Harper. The Surrey group began as a beginner (feeder) class for the Country Cousins with caller Don Nelson as their caller. They danced in the basement of the United Church on Grosvenor Road. Don Harper moved to Seattle so the Danielsons and George and Dorothy Cruickshank helped form a new group called, “The Surrey Square Wheelers” in 1960 with Don Nelson and his wife Audrey as their caller couple. Doreen Thorstenson Gentner recalled a man, Norm Nelson (wife Zeta), who worked with her at Timberland Mill, inviting her to join a new dance club that his son, Don Nelson, was calling for in Surrey. Ian Grant recalls his parents, Dewer and Joan Grant, starting to square dance in the basement of Lloyd and Donna Woodens. He believed they were named the Sunset Promenadors square dance group. The Grants moved to join the Surrey Square Wheelers along with Winn and Bill Williams of Surrey, Dorothy and George Cruikshank, Mary and George Sellers, Marj and Jim McKeddie, Bill Newell, Don and Audry Ditsel, Ted and Irene Dacre, Marian and Art Nelson, Mary and Addie Van Alstine, Jim Arden, Val and Merv Gordon, Jack and Muriel MacDonald and John and Iris Bright.

Callers for the Club

The Surrey group began as a beginners (feeder) class for the Country Cousins with caller Don Nelson as their caller. “The Surrey Square Wheelers” began with Don Nelson and his wife Audrey as their caller couple. Don Nelson’s daughter, Donna DeLange recalls people dancing in the family home’s basement and she recalls her Dad practicing the calls in the car while using a small portable record player.

After two years, Don Nelson felt that the club needed a caller that could take the dancers from beginners to club level dancing. In 1962, George Cruikshank, who was the President of the club, approached Al Berry while attending the dance at the Penticton Peach Festival. Al was working as a teacher in Hope, B.C. When George Cruikshank asked him to call for the Surrey Square Wheelers, Al was concerned about the long drive from Hope to Surrey. He accepted the calling position and then took teaching positions in Mission and eventually Chilliwack. The drive from Chilliwack is something Al had undertaken for 43 years in order that he might call for the Surrey Square Wheelers.

Don and Audrey Nelson were our first caller couple

Don died in 2007, but Audrey lived in Penticton as of 2010. Their children are Bill Nelson of Cloverdale, Donna Delange of Duncan, Zeta Funk, Cindy Bennett of Cloverdale, Joanne Prediger, and Don Roger Newsage. Don started calling for the club in various basements until they rented the Moose Hall in Whalley. Audrey past away one month short of her 95th Birthday May 7 2022

First Caller Couple



Surrey Square Wheeler's Second Caller



Al Berry called for the Surrey Square Wheelers for over 45 years. He started calling while at UBC in the fall of 1949. He took a square to the very first annual Pacific Northwest Teen Square Dance Festival in 1950 where his team competed with 15 other teams and succeeded in winning the Grand Championship. Al won the Championship calling award.

His career in calling included Square Dance Director for the City of Edmonton Recreation Commission, one of the first callers for the first B.C. Square Dance Jamboree in Penticton in 1954, calling for clubs in Vancouver, Chilliwack, Hope, Keremeos, Princeton, and in Surrey for the Square Wheelers beginning in 1962.

He was a dedicated promoter of square dancing, sitting on numerous executive bodies to direct teen festivals, B.C. balls, Vancouver District Caller-Teacher's association, Conveticion 90 and creating the "Sets in Order" square dance magazine.

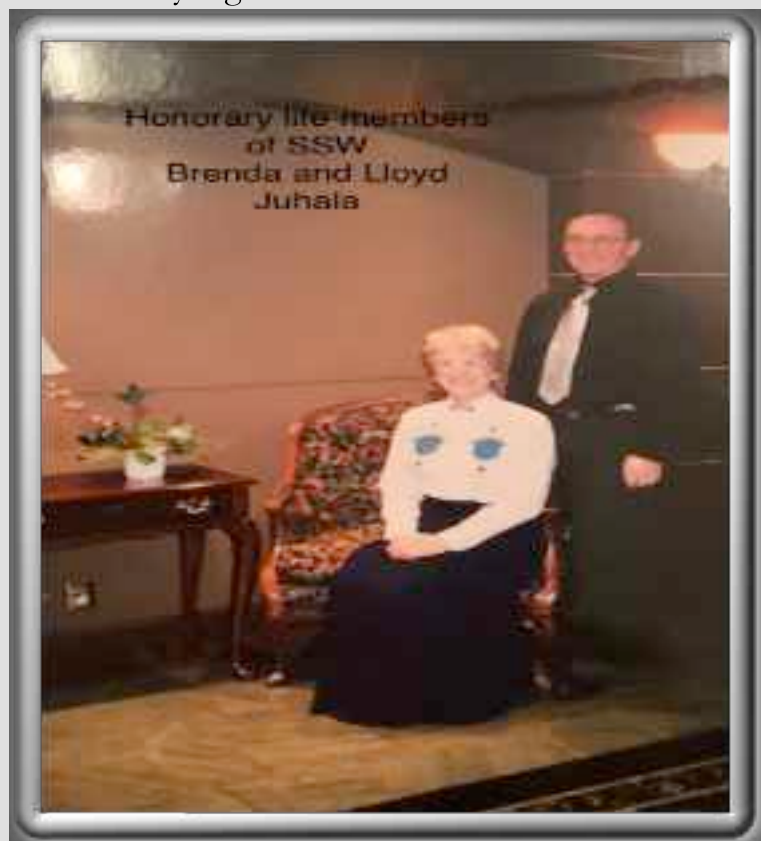
Surrey Square Wheelers honour Al for his years of service to our club. Steve Edlund planned a 40th anniversary of calling celebration for him attended by over 500 people in 1989. His 50 years of calling was celebrated during the Pacific Northwest Teen Festival held at the University of Simon Fraser in 1999. His retirement from calling and for the Surrey club was celebrated by over a 100 people who had danced with him over his 57 years of calling in 2007.

Caller's for the Surrey Square Wheelers

1960-1962	Don Nelson
1962-2007	Al Berry calls for beginner and club level. He later called plus and mainstream level then returned to beginner level of instruction calling.
1967-1969	Irene Hazzard calls for the beginners
2001-present	Steve Edlund
1997- 2005	Brenda Juhala called for Mainstream
2004-2018	Alison Hampton cues for round dancing
2005	Krista Ferguson calls for Mainstream
2007-present	Krista also calls for the beginner group
2018	Krista Baird (nee Ferguson) cues on Tuesday nights

There have been other callers and cuers for the club, notably cuer Brian Penny who taught round dancing as a separate class, teen caller Ron Phillips, plus caller Ron Wright in 1966 and Bob Jeglum in 1964 who taught the beginners.

In the early days of the Surrey Square Wheelers, the callers Don Nelson and Al Berry not only taught square dancing but also taught round dancing. Round dances were taught and memorized by the dancers. Later separate instructors were hired to teach round dancing and cueing the dance moves became the norm.



In the early days of square dancing there were just two levels of dance-beginners (introductory level) and club level. The multiple levels of dancing were introduced over the years starting in the 1970s when Steve Edlund's parents, Eric and Diane Edlund, were the president couple. The level system began in California was to encourage experienced dancers to stay interested by learning new dance skills while newer dancers had lessons designed specifically for them. Surrey Square Wheelers has continued promote beginner, mainstream and plus levels of dance.

Square Angels (experienced dancers) received a Square Angel Badge, and were invited to come out to beginner classes to help the new dancers move along.

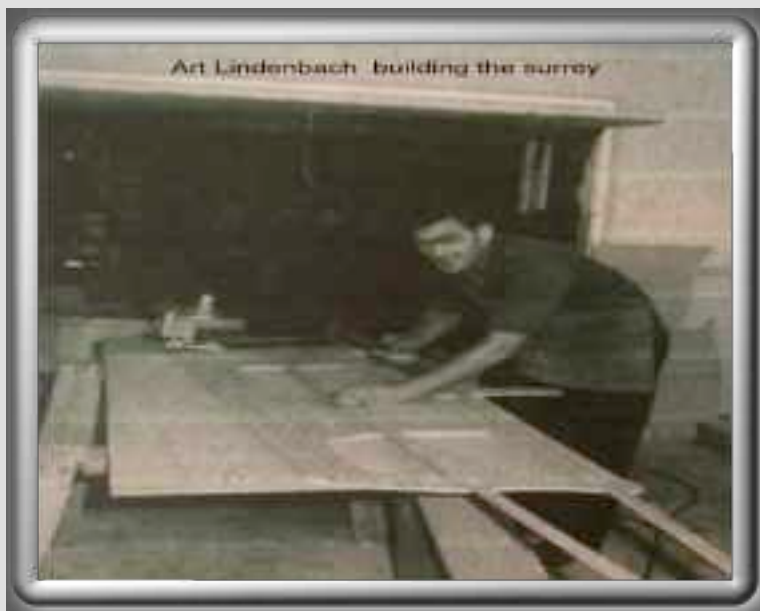
Goofers' Night, held once a year allowed novice callers to try calling for the club dancers. Individuals such as Grant Ward, Keith Foss, Tyler Wagner, Phyllis Widden, Art Cooke, Ken Melech and Steve Edlund were encouraged by Al Berry to try calling for the club. Many went on to be callers for other clubs. Steve Edlund encourages others to try calling or cuing including Roger Morrow. To this day we still hold Goofers' Night and individuals volunteer to try calling or cuing.

Our Large Red and Yellow Surrey

In the 1969, members, Art Lindenbach, Dick Gibson and Norm Thompson decided to build a wooden surrey with, what looked like, square wheels to be used for various parades, especially for the Penticton Peach Festival Parade. This Surrey has been used for promotions in the annual Cloverdale Rodeo Parade, White Rock Christmas Light parade, Cloverdale Christmas parade, Langley Days parade and the Fort Langley May Day parade. It can carry the caller, or tired dancers, but is usually used to carry the music's sound system. In parades the surrey has been pulled by various methods including a truck, people, ride on lawn mower and car. It won many awards in the various parades. The Surrey Square Wheeler clothing colors of black, red, yellow, and white take their cue from the Surrey with the Fringe on top.

1994 It was refurbished by Al Gilbert and Irene Popowich.

2015-16 – Roger Morrow and Marj Kenny refurbished the surrey.



Annual Penticton Jamboree and Peach Festival

Our Surrey Square Wheeler Club has been well represented at every Penticton Jamboree at the Peach Festival since 1961 and we have had an entry into every Peach Festival parade since the first parade in 1963 until 2003. In August 1980 the biggest contingent ever, turned out to support our caller, Al Berry, who had the honor of being M.C. for the Saturday night Jamboree Windup Dance. In 2003, many Square Wheelers were present when Al Berry and Steve Edlund called at the final out door Jamboree dance held on the 50th anniversary of the Penticton Jamboree.

In the early days of the club, all the dancers with young children brought them along to the big annual celebration in Penticton. Most of the dancers camped in tents and their kids had a lot of fun. Mary Cruickshank Rochford recalls that she and her young friends, Fred and Sandi Sellers had to babysit while their parents danced. Mary, Fred, and Sandi would move from tent to tent checking on the kids. She remembers having a lot of fun with dancing starting as soon as people woke up in the morning. She recalls Jim McKeddie, a carpenter, taking a lot of ribbing because of his efforts to keep a tarp up over a common area between tents. The kids were dressed as dancers and joined their parents in the Peach Festival parade. Many of the club members' older kids were dancing in a teen dance group originally started by Don Nelson.

Badges were very popular items to collect at many special dance events. At the Penticton Jamboree you could earn the Aquaduc badge by square dancing in the lake.

Our caller, Steve, met his lovely wife Lynnette, during the Penticton Jamboree. They often attend the yearly celebration.



In 1970, a group of Surrey Square Wheelers were in the Penticton Peach Festival Parade carrying our banner. Some names in this photo are Fred and Muriel MacDonald (middle row on extreme right), Art Nelson (front row kneeling on extreme right) his wife Marion in centre wearing blue plaid holding flag, , Al Berry (in the back row wearing a tan vest), Faye Lindenbach in the bright pink dress at the back, Faye's husband, Art on the right with the white hat, others in the photo are Bill and Winn Williams (Bill is third from the left Winn is standing to right of flag in blue flowered dress), and Cecil Hazzard carrying the banner.

Past Presidents of the Surrey Square Wheelers

1960's

1961-1962	Dot & George Cruickshank
1962-1963	Jo & George Rule
1963-1964	Iris & John Bright
1964-1965	Muriel & Fred MacDonald
1965-1966	Irene & Cecil Hazzard
1966-1967	Frances & Dennis Haugrud
1967-1969	Irene & Bill Holly
1969-1970	Val & Merrill Gordon

1970's

1970 -1971	Faye and Art Lindenbach
1971-1972	Rita and Les Rix
1972-1973	Jackie & Jack Anderson
1973-1974	Irene and Norm Blades
1974-1975	Ida and Art Van
1975-1976	Audrey and Keith Appleton
1976-1977	Gaye and Bill Newell
1977-1978	Marion and Art Nelson
1978-1979	Betty and Jack Wilkinson
1979 -1980	Marge and Reg Beatty

1980's

1980-1981	Janet and Art Cooke
1981-1983	Diane and Eric Edlund
1983-1984	Lorraine and Wally Peters
1984-1985	Patti-Lee & Paul Tyrrell
1985-1986	Hanne & Stig Anderson
1986-1987	Pat & George Martin
1987 -1988	Bev and Russ Kass
1989 -1990	Evelyn & Reg Fallowfield

1990's

1990 -1991	Iris and Bill George
1991 - 1992	Dorothy and Vern Cooper
1992 - 1993	Barb & Romeo Dumonceaus
1993-1994	Katherine & Frank La Lear
1994-1996	Dorothy & Gordon Thorne
1996 - 1998	Mary and Erick Holz
1998 -2000	Grant & Vera Ward

2000's

2000 - 2001	Gail and Tom Davis
2001 - 2003	Darlene and Richard Fehr
2003 - 2005	Pat and Joe Reilander
2005-2010	Gerry and Ada Jansen
2010 - 2012	Kim Allen and Garnet Janus
2012-2015	Jerry and Marlene Lamont
2015-2016	Frank McNeil and Yvonne Hebein
2016-2018	Roianne and Norm Evans
2018-2020	Jerry and Marlene Lamont

George & Dot Cruickshank
1961-62



Gerry & Ada Jansen
2005-10



Frank McNeil & Yvonne Hebein
2015-16



Darlene & Richard Fehr
2001-03



Garnet Janus
2010-12



Roianne Evans
2016-18



Jerry & Marlene Lamont
2012-15, 2018-20



SSW Graduation Ceremony

According to Al Berry, the Surrey Square Wheeler Club graduation celebration became a very elaborate and significant evening where the beginner badge is retired and a permanent club badge took its place. Dorothy Thorne (former club president in 1994) recalled, "The ceremony came into being, before 1984. SSW had a caller, Charlie Liberty, who came from the US to live here. He and Al Berry knew each other. Charlie went to the eastern seaboard on a visit. The square dancers, there, were doing this ceremony and he brought it back to the club."

68's Grad

As early as 1968, the members had created card board graduation caps (mortar board) with tassels to be used for the graduation ceremony. (see photo) Candles and pledges became part of the ceremony as well. In 2010, President Garnet Janus and the executive streamlined the ceremony taking out some of the vows/oaths made by the new dancers. The hats and candles are still part of the ceremony.

70's Grad



Bonnie and Keith Hartup, early members of the SSW, are on extreme right. Bonnie in pink and seated. Keith is in beige and standing behind Bonnie. Their friend, Heimo Larem is behind Keith. Seated next to Bonnie is young teen, Roianne Evans with her mother standing next to her right shoulder.

Other members who have been with SSW for a while are Jean and Alex Galbraith who joined in 1982 and Diane and Brian Bond in 1984.

The SSW Dance Club's Halls

In 1960, the club was dancing in the basement of the United Church on Grosvenor Rd. and in the spring of 1961 they danced in Prince Charles Elementary School on 100th Avenue in Surrey. In the fall of 1961 the club moved to South Westminster Hall in Surrey and then on to the old Moose Hall above Cap's Cycles in Whalley. The dance club renamed this hall the "Hitchin' Post." It was located on Grosvenor Rd. behind the drug store, at the corner of King George Hwy and Grosvenor Rd. (on the north side). The club put in tables that folded down from the walls for use during the coffee breaks, many photos of dancers and callers, such as Al Berry, as a teen caller, were on the walls, and a small stage like podium provided a place for the caller to stand. Windows on the north and south walls provided a view of Whalley and allowed lots of daylight in. The many stairs that needed to be climbed to enter the building and the two posts holding up the ceiling were the main drawbacks to dancing there. Eventually the hall was declared unsafe for dancing and the club moved in the fall of 1970 to Panarama Ridge Hall on 148th St. near Number 10 Hwy.

The club moved in 1976 to the Elks Hall in Fleetwood and in then on to Port Kells Hall. They also used the Sunbury Hall in North Delta, Queen Elizabeth High School, and the Kennedy Hall in Surrey. In 2012, SSW moved to Langley into the Brookwood Senior Citizens hall at 19899 36 Avenue. The rent in Port Kells hall was getting too high and the hall directors were going to charge extra for storage. Bonnie Hartup, president of Brookwood Senior centre and a member of the SSW executive researched the comparative costs and the Brookwood Centre was a better price with plenty of storage

Port Kells Hall



Brookwood Senior Centre



SSW Teen Club

In 1960, Don and Audrey Nelson's son, Billy, attended Simon Cunningham Elementary School on King George Hwy. (this old school has since been torn down.) Don and fellow caller, Esther Bothwell, started an after school square dance club for the grade 6 and 7 students. In 1961, several of these students, including Bonnie Hartup

(nee Hansen) then moved to continue dancing at St. Helens Anglican church Hall on 128th St. Surrey. It is likely that this was arranged by Dewer and Joan Grant who were active members of St. Helens church. Here the kids from the elementary school were joined by several teens, who were offspring of the dance club members, and other young people, who were members of St. Helens Church. Don Nelson continued to teach this group.

The teen group called themselves, the Twilight Twirlers, and competed in the annual Teen Town Dance Festival held in Cloverdale in 1963. They were a novice group and did not place in the competition. The next year, 1964, they were more informed and determined to do well. They enlisted the help of Ron Phillips, a very gifted teen caller from New Westminster. He guided several squares of good dancers through a year of classes and preparation for the next Teen Town Competition. Eventually two squares, Sunset Promenadors- Dudes and Dames, and Sunset Promenadors - Dudes and Dolls, were entered and they both placed well. Their caller, Ron Phillips, won the senior caller competition.

In 1979, Surrey Teen Wheelers group was formed with Fred McDonald as the caller. Many of the teens participating in this group were kids of the SSW parents. The teens danced on Tuesday night before the SSW adults danced and then moved to Green Timbers hall and a school gym. Steve Edlund and his sister, Judy, were members of this group. Steve earned several calling championships in his many years of entering the competition.

Earliest teen club promoted by members of the Surrey Square Wheelers, the "Twilight Twirlers" Back row left to right- Lorne Ekroth, Peter Walton, Evan McCormack (caller), Harley Bothwell, Fred Sellers, Milton Hunniford Front row -Dawn Sherman, Mary Cruickshank, Sandi Sellers, Grace, Sylvia Wood



SSW Teen Club

Back row, from left to right - Bob Skomedal, Tom McCormack, Evan McCormack, Don Ekroth, Ian Grant, Ross Thomas

Front row- Sheila Hazzard, Paige McCormack, Bonnie Hansen (aka Hartup) Anne Moan



Steve's Teen Group

Former and Current Annual Celebrations

Over the 60 years of Surrey Square Wheelers there have been many special traditions, dances and activities. Some we still have and some have fallen away. Here is a list of some we recall

Pie night, Easter Family night celebration, Apple Berry night (Al Berry donated or sold apples from his tree and everyone made desserts out of them), Pioneer Dance to include all former dancers, Pajama dance, barn dance with Brenda Juhala and our own club band, “Cypress Creek”, annual picnic which has been in back yards, Bear Creek Park, Peace Arch park, Redwood Park, Fleetwood Park, Mount Slesse Park, Port Kells Park and various other venues, bus trips to other cities for dance or to see Christmas lights, barbecues, annual campouts, Guess who is coming to dinner dinners, fashion shows of square dance apparel, and Gordon Thorne badge night.

We still have the following:

Halloween dress up dance, Christmas dinner with Santa and dance, anniversary dance in November (lately with a Hawaii theme), Goofer’s night for new callers, callers’ and cuer’s birthday celebrations, team jersey dance, Valentines Dance, St Patrick’s dance, Graduation ceremony, Easter hat dance, Hoedown, annual Happiness dance, recycle sale, club picnic.

Community Involvement

Surrey Square Wheelers have contributed their skills and enthusiasm to various community events. In the early days of the club they demonstrated at the Surrey Fall Fair held annually in Cloverdale, they performed at schools, for seniors, in malls, in parks such as the summer nights dancing in Bear Creek park, and in many parades including the Annual Cloverdale Rodeo Parade, the White Rock light parade, the Langley Christmas parade, the Fort Langley May Day parade, and the Penticton Peach Festival parade. They even danced at Empire Stadium during the half time of the professional football B.C. Lions game and at the Pacific National Exhibition.



The Annual Happiness Dance “50 Years”

In the fall of 1970 the annual “Happiness Dance” was created to raise funds for the Lower Fraser Valley Cerebral Palsy centre in Surrey. The centre later became the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre and then the Centre for Child Development. Under the leadership of 1970’s president couple, Art and Fay Lindenbach and club members, Keith and Audrey Appleton the idea was conceived because the Appleton’s daughter was benefitting from this service. Over the next 50 years 1970-2020, the Surrey Square Wheelers have donated thousands of dollars to the centre. Proceeds from the dance admission, silent auction, used dance clothing sales, general donations and donations of the use of their skills by various callers has allowed the club to proudly continue its support.

Club Outfits through the Years

The club has chosen to change and adapt its’ club outfits over the years. The men’s shirts and ties were made to match the ladies’ dresses or blouses and skirts. These outfits are worn at various dances and festivals to show that individuals are members of the Surrey Square Wheelers Square and Round Dance Club. Our current colors reflect the colors found on our Surrey mascot. The club badge also reflect these colors.

1960s

Our club is in possession of a long sleeved red wool dress with a flared skirt with appliques of square wheels. There is a matching man’s shirt. No one can recall it actually being a club outfit. It was likely created by an enthusiastic member who wished to promote the club.

1970’s

The ladies wore red and white gingham checked gores alternated with white gores to form full circle skirts. Some chose to have bibs and straps attached to their skirts. All ladies wore white puff sleeve blouses. Men wore white shirts and checked ties.

1976-78’s

Club members made green dresses and men wore green shirts as seen in the Penticton Peach Festival Parade pictures of the time.

1999

Black club jackets (bomber style) with Surrey Square Wheelers name on them were ordered and sold to members. We have several photos of the club wearing these jackets

In the years of 1990s-2020

The colors for the club are black skirts for the ladies with white, yellow or red blouses. A striped belt with the club colors of black, white, red and yellow is also worn. Men wear a matching shirt with a black club tie. The tie has red, yellow and white stripes on them.

Other outfits from the past included skirts with yellow and red square wheels

2014

We again introduced new black club jackets, very similar to the ones in 1999.



Callers and Cuers 50th Anniversary



Club Outfits



Rock and Roll 150s night



Sit-Down Dinner
1980



World's Largest Hot Sauce

Canada Day



Grad 2016



On Parade



T-Shirt Night

Special Celebrations



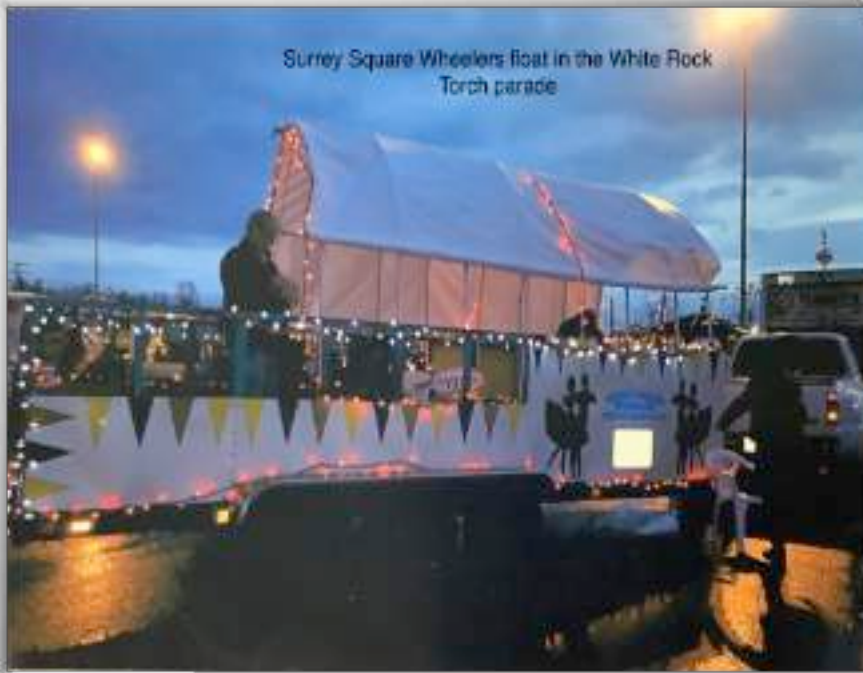
Happy
Halloween



Red/Black Night



Participations



Surrey Square Wheelers float in the White Rock Torch parade



Aqua Duck Badge Earners at Penticton



Parading in the 70's

Badges became collectible memories from various dances and events.



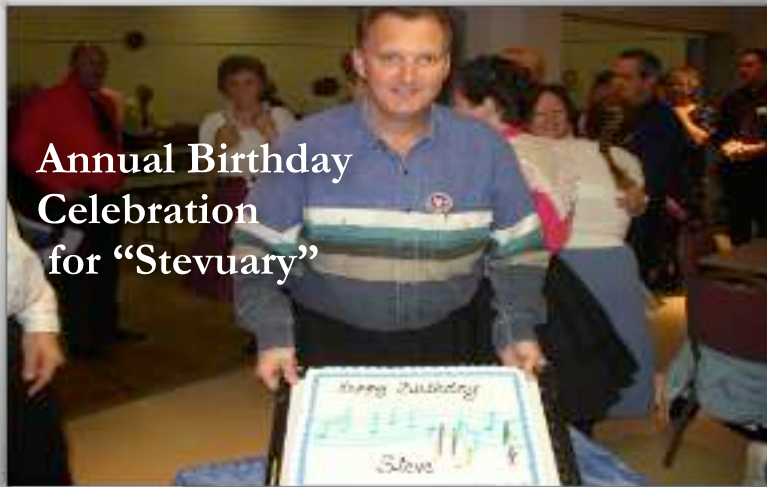
Mostly Steve



Our Caller as a Young Man



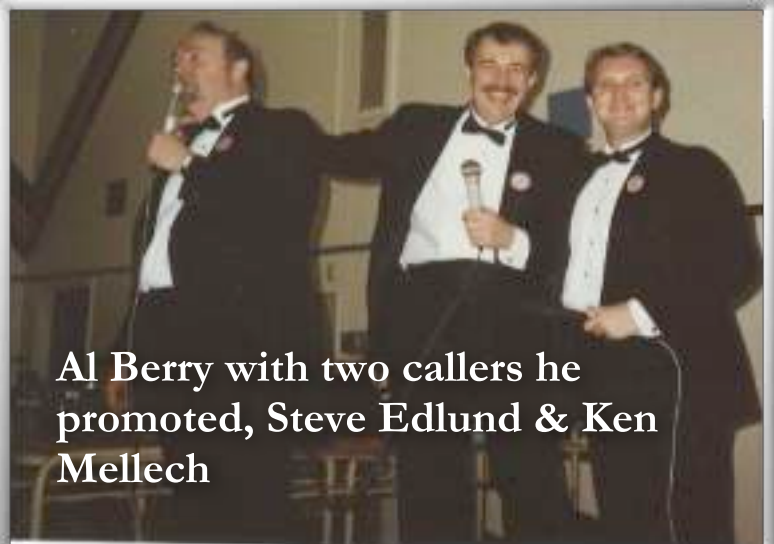
Steve and Lynette Celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary with SSW



Annual Birthday Celebration for "Stevuary"



Steve as Recording Artist



Al Berry with two callers he promoted, Steve Edlund & Ken Mellech

Mostly Krista



Krista Baird
British Columbia
Canada

I Need A Hero

New Release From Riverboat Records - March 2018