



DID YOU KNOW?

by Lane Johnston

Did You Know...?

How difficult it can be to find pictures or videos that you saw “somebody” capture at a recent dance you attended? Several people may have been taking pictures at the dance using either their cell phones or digital cameras. But there’s a good chance you have no idea who to contact to see if they were ever posted anywhere (and if they were posted, where might you find them?! You try searching Facebook, but you might spend hours scroll-searching through numerous Facebook “groups” and “pages” only to be disappointed at not finding a single photo from the dance. Frustrating, isn’t it?

Well...there’s “hope”! It’s exciting to announce the creation of a website specifically designed to make posting and finding photos and videos taken at any square dance or round dance event anywhere within Washington state a relatively simple process. Control your excitement for a moment before jumping to explore the website...let me briefly describe what you’ll find there. It’s a work-in-progress, so there won’t be a lot of “content” (pictures/videos) there yet.

The site, www.squaredance-wa-pics.org is built on the SmugMug.com photo-sharing site. Think of the site’s architecture as being similar to the “file” structure familiar to most long-time computer users (cascading levels of detail), with the most detailed “content” at the lowest level:

- **HOMEPAGE:** You’ll find a brief description of the site and instructions on how to navigate it.
 - You’ll see a Council Map which is also linked directly to the WA State Federation’s website.
 - You’ll see a COUNCIL LIST. For now, select RAINIER COUNCIL (it’s the first one with “content”).
- **COUNCIL PAGES:** There’s one for each council, plus a handful of others (e.g. “Circle 8 Ranch”).
 - Each council page will consist of a logo box, a brief description of the council’s geographic reach, and a folder for each club within the council, plus another folder just for council events (e.g. Council Dances).
 - If the council has it’s own website and Facebook page, you’ll find links for the as well.

- **CLUB FOLDERS:** Here’s where you’ll find any photo galleries from club dances. They will be displayed in chronological order from newest to oldest. The date of the dance will be in yyy-mm-dd format, followed by the name of theme of the dance.

How will pictures and videos be posted to the site, you ask? Each club will be allowed one or two volunteer “Gallery Creators” who will be given password access to the site. Creating a gallery prior to a dance will be a simple process taking only a few minutes and will include the creation of an upload link that can be posted at the dance. Anyone attending the dance who takes pictures or video with either a cell phone or digital camera can scan or copy the link and upload their photos or videos directly to the gallery...even during the dance in real time (being sure one has a wifi connection or an unlimited data account).

The galleries will be “public”, so no copyrighted content (pictures or video) can be uploaded, although watermarking photos is allowable. You’ll have the ability to download any that you like directly to your own computer...or you can order prints (and even photo-merchandise like T-shirts and coffee mugs) directly from SmugMug if you like.

Would you like to volunteer to be an Authorized Gallery Creator (AGC) for your club or council? If the answer is Yes, let your President know. All club and council Presidents will receive an email request that they submit the name and email address of their two AGC’s. Password access and simple instructions for creating galleries will be sent directly to the AGC’s.

Before you know it, we’ll have an easily searchable archive of hundreds, if not thousands, of square and round dance photos and videos pf #SquareDancers #SeenHavingFun from across the entire state.

I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to share your photography skills with all your dancing friends.

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