# The CARIBOO CONNECTION

**ISSUE # 57** 

EDITORS: MARY ANNE & NICK TURNER

#### ODE TO THE SQUARE DANCE CALLERS

By Harold Haskell (Maine, USA)

Have you ever stopped to ponder, About the ones who stand up yonder. Calling out the lively Square Dance Calls?

How they got to be so clever, By the sweat of their endeavour, In the confines of their lonely basement walls?

Of the endless repetition, To perfect their smooth rendition, To bring to you the calls you like to hear?

Of the practice that's required, Often weary, often tired, But still determined that they shall persevere?

They must buy a good-sized shipment, Of some highly-priced equipment, And literature and records by the score!

And they must bear this heavy load, To square dance halls along the road, To get you out there dancing on the floor!

And don't forget their family life, The ones forced to listen to the strife, And to the noise that all practice brings,

So when the dancing night is done, And you've had a night of fun, Remember all those most important things



Thank you to our Region 5 Callers and Cuers- we sure do appreciate you!

# Take Note:All Region 5 Dancers and Leaders(That's You)

Your Region 5 Association will be holding its AGM on Saturday May 26, 2018 at the Williams Lake Jamboree venue. The time will be 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Before attending the morning round dance session, join us for a quick meeting.

All Region 5 dancers/leaders are eligible to attend and share your opinions or gather information. Your executive would really appreciate some company. It's lonely without you.

Below is a proposed agenda outline for the meeting and now it needs your input. What items do you wish to have added under Old Business or New Business? Please let me know soon so I can make a more complete agenda and forward it around the region before the meeting.

Proposed R5CCDA AGM Meeting Agenda Saturday, May 26, 2018 - 9:00 A.M.

1. Adoption of Agenda

2. Minutes of previous meeting - June 2017

3. Business Arising from Minutes

4. Financial Report - Bill Cocker

5. Correspondence

6. Reports and Business Arising from Reports - the reports will not be read out at the meeting as the information has been previously communicated throughout the region.

7. Old Business

A. Federation Delegate report on BOD Mtg.

B. Cariboo Connection Newsletter Report

8. New Business

A. Treasurer- We need a new volunteer

B. Remember to budget for the second part of the BCS&RDF fee increase - \$3.00

9. Adjournment

#### A Plea from Region 5 President

Sadly I received a letter of resignation from our Region 5 volunteer treasurer, **Bill Cocker** in Prince George. He has served our region well for 4 years and is giving up his position effective at our AGM in May. I am very grateful for his years of efficient service.

As President of Region 5, this news **puts me in a bit of a panic** and so now I turn to you for **help**.

In order for us to keep our region association alive, and thus keep us eligible for our liability insurance, we need a new volunteer to be the treasurer.

To put my mind at ease, please contact me quickly if you would consider taking on this role or if you know of someone who might be persuaded to do so.

Bill is willing to help the new person to learn the ins and outs of the position and will make himself available.

The job requires someone with computer abilities as far as emailing documents and forms is concerned and because of the large distances between our clubs, our communications are done by email.

There are 2 busy times.....

Late September to early December the treasurer contacts the region clubs with the information they need to collect fees. The treasurer receives the fees, makes bank deposits, fills in the appropriate forms (available on the Federation website) and sends a cheque to the BC Federation Treasurer.

At season end, the treasurer prepares financial statements for availability at the Region 5 AGM in May.

In between time, there is little to do except maintaining the financial books and processing the odd late registration.

We can't keep our Region going without extra support from dancers and/or leaders.

Somewhere in our Region I hope there is a person willing to help us out in this area. Please let me know quickly.

Also, please note that the Region 5 Caller, Cuer, Dancer Association (R5CCDA) Annual General Meeting is being held at a different time and place this year.

It will be held at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 26, 2018 during the Williams Lake Jamboree weekend.

It is hoped that the dancers and leaders of the region will attend and help us discuss the dancing in our region.

Really people, we can't do this without some help.

Also:

Our Region 5 delegates to the BC Square and Round Dance Federation (Bill and Jan Cave, Dana Ball, Karen Piffko) were required to compile a report from our region and submit it to the Federation Secretary for posting on the BC Federation webpage.

A request for information was sent to the clubs of our region so that the report could be written containing accurate information.

We asked for simple things like: How many members does your club have? Did you have new dancers? Any club milestone events coming up? Any other club news that you wish to share with the province?

Thank you to those clubs (Williams Lake, Prince George and Terrace) who bothered to send in a report for our delegates to use.

Hopefully we will hear from all of you next time?

Mary Anne Turner - President Region 5





Dear BC Dancers and Leaders,

The time has come for us to "retire" from our position as BC Delegates to the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society when the current two year term is up in July.

It seems a very long time ago that we were active in our local club executives, the Okanagan regional Association, BC Federation and then CSRDS since 2010. We are proud to have served in many positions within these. We have learned a great deal over those years and have made many wonderful life time friends.

While the numbers of dancers nationally continue to decline, it is still encouraging to see dedicated people committed to continuing the promotion of our activity.

New delegates to CSRDS will be nominated at the BC Fed AGM on April 7th in Abbotsford so if you have an interest in this, please contact your regional rep to BC Fed or President Ken Crisp to discuss.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for allowing us the honour to serve you all these years. We'd also like to pass on our thanks to those who have presented certificates on our behalf at many of the club anniversary events when we weren't able to attend.

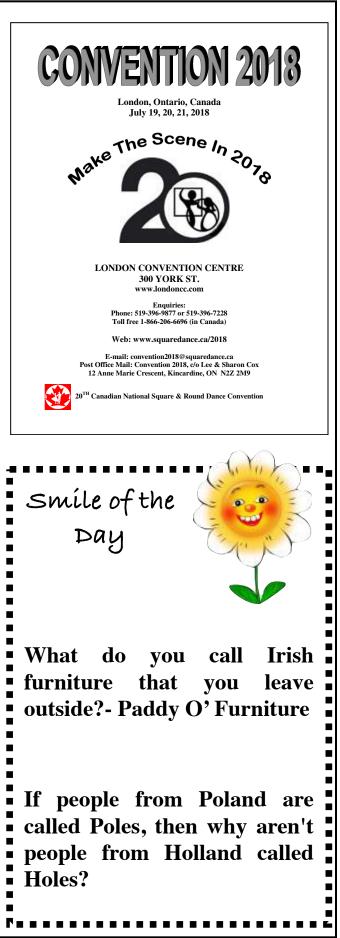
We look forward to future dances and festivals and hope to see many of you at the National Festival 2018 in London, Ontario this summer.

And, as Registration Chairpersons for Festival 2020 to be held in Surrey, we'll be watching for your registrations!

Thanks again and Yellow Rocks to all!

Darcy & Beth McGifford





### REGION REFLECTIONS

**Stampede Whirlaways - Williams Lake** by Anne Christie

Our March Merriment Dance and Goodie Auction on March 3rd was a great success with 3 squares dancing, and an awesome display of baked goodies for eating and auctioning.

There was a huge variety of pies including lemon meringue, banana cream, apple, pumpkin, apple raspberry, and chocolate cream; cookies, cheesecake, chocolates, butter tarts and several impressive cakes.

Nick had prepared some fun new dances; one was an alternate duple contra call to the Scottish "Fight About the Fireside Reel", and another which he named football calls, where 3 sequences of moves were assigned numbers and we had to remember the sequences when he would just call our the number.

After dancing we feasted on as much pie and cake as we wanted, then Nick led the lively auction, with some people even cheerfully (or unintentionally) bidding against themselves. **Cathy Davidson** and a guest won the door prizes and **John Derksen** walked away with the 50/50 cash. **Ordell Steen, Bill Drebit** and **Tom Bingham** were definitely the most successful at stocking their freezers, and **Sheila Finnie** offered the highest bid of the night as she was determined to get Ellen Wiege's famous banana cream pie!

It was fun having a variety of goodies to choose from, and I am really enjoying my dark Belgian ginger chocolates. They had to go in the freezer for rationing purposes though!

**Nick and Mary Anne** very generously donated their calling/cueing fees again, as well as bringing cheesecake and the very popular chicken pies.

The Stampede Whirlaway Square Dancers were happy to present a cheque for \$1,365 to Nancy Gale, Executive Director of the Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Centre Association in Williams Lake. This is an amazing contribution from our small club, especially considering that there were only 29 people attending the auction! Nancy personally thanked the club at our March 15th dance, and advised that the money raised will go towards a Sensory Integration Room for their Autism Program, which has over 100 children registered, including some as young as 18 months.

We held our Saint Patrick's Day dance on March 15th, and were happy to welcome back **Jan and Bill Cave** who were well tanned and rested after 6 weeks in Hawaii, despite the cooler and wetter than normal weather in Maui this year. They enjoyed family time with their children and grandchildren as well as snorkeling and watching the humpback whales.

We had every shade of green for our Saint Patrick's Dance with **Ray Coupe** winning the lucky shamrock for the brightest green shirt, and Nick and Mary Anne for the wonderfully themed Irish songs.

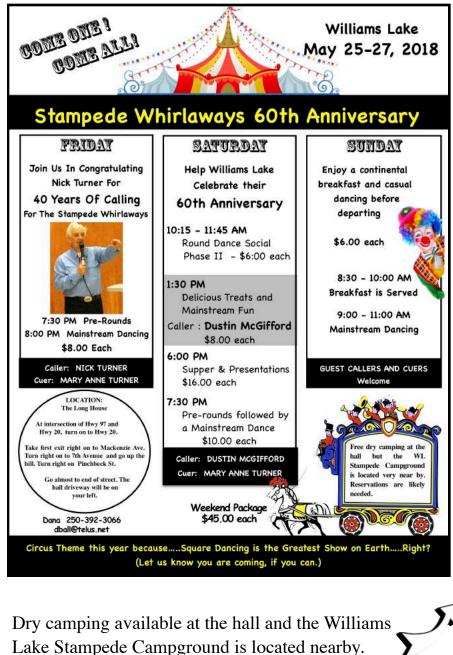
**Tina and John Derksen** are currently visiting Australia on a long-anticipated trip to see their son and his family, whom they haven't seen for 13 years!

**Cathy and Glen Davidson** are off to Lake Powell in Southern Utah for a 10 day canoeing trip.

**Pat Harton** is busy training for the BMO Vancouver Half Marathon on May 6. It is a 21 km course starting in Queen Elizabeth Park, heading downhill on Cambie, across False Creek to Chinatown, Yaletown, the West End and through Stanley Park to Coal Harbour.

This is Pat's first half marathon and he will be entered in the 75-79 age class. Best of luck Pat, we will be cheering for you!





### Williams Lake Jamboree

You don't have to register ahead but.....



we would like to know you are coming so we can correctly plan for refreshments and the main meal. Just send an email to one of these people or make a phone call.

**dball@telus.net** 250-392-3066 **nmturner@telus.net** 250-392-2432

#### Accommodation

There are several hotel/motels in the area but the manager of the **Super 8** has offered a special rate to square dancers of \$89.00 per night for single or double occupancy + tax . Use the toll free number that takes you directly to the Williams Lake branch of the Super 8 chain. That number is **1-866-398-8884**.

Mention that you are square dancers and would like to accept the rate offered to dancers.

#### Terrace Skeena Squares by Diane Weismiller

Terrace Skeena Squares have been unable to dance this year. Two of our senior members are over 80 and felt that they could no longer dance due to health issues. Two of our other couples also have long-term health problems and the healthy ones seem to be traveling as often as possible.

We did not get any response to the Facebook advertising and feel that it is not worth making an effort to recruit beginners when we do not have a core group to work with. If I was younger, I might consider it but when much more experienced callers are retiring, I am not ready to take on a new project unless I receive a special request from a group.

We are sorry that we are not dancing and the 5-7 of us who are able when we are all here considered getting together from time to time but that hasn't worked out so far. Too bad all the other clubs are so far away. None of us want to face the challenge of a 7-8 hour drive down Highway 16 to attend dances during the winter.

#### Prince George Northern Twisters by Julie Skead

Here we are, heading towards the end of another square and round dancing year....Mondays at 7 at Knox United Church, 5th and Brunswick: music, smiles, laughter, connections, and exercise for the mind and body.

Gys Koops continues to be our caller, Gary Dean our round dance instructor and cuer, and we admire Dolores Young, Jolanda Van Dyk, and Maurice Mingay for stepping in to call. April 9th is set for any dancers who want to try their hand at calling.

Elections...We appreciate both new and returning members to the Executive and volunteer positions.

We're proud of our 12 new dancers from Fall. **Gys** did some Sundays bonus coaching; I remember how that helped. Graduation night is slated for April 16th to honor their accomplishments. 'Angel' danglers for name badges were presented to members who have been patient and positive helpers for new dancers to the club.

We also acknowledge our seven 'Four Score And More' members, most who come out regularly to dance!

Tuesday Round Dance Two Step classes with **Gary** and **Barb Dean** at their studio continue. We're proud of what we've accomplished together.

'Plus' (Tuesdays) and 'A' dancers (Thursdays) meet to dance in the afternoons, under the direction of **Lorne Paulson**. Our hats off to you for taking on such a challenge. We're glad you take in some Mainstream nights / events, keeping in touch with the club over all and ending up acting as an 'Angel' for calls some like me still find challenging.

Many of us will remember **Irene Rigler**, who passed away January 26th, at age 94. Not long ago I would phone her whenever there was a special dance night was coming up, or our jamboree.

Our club continues to be invited for demo squares .... for Gateway Complex a beautiful seniors' housing and care complex, for a Valentine's Day Seniors' Tea at our Civic Center, and for Jubilee Lodge which is on our hospital grounds. (Some of us got lost trying to get out to the back street parking or even hospital entrance parking!)

We notice that us being 'all dolled up', plus our joy (+ laughter when we get mixed up) puts zip into the day for many clients.

Valentine's Dance was super....family invited. The 50's /60's Dance with special old tunes and ice cream floats, Double Bubble, Rosebuds, and those clothes from the back of our closets had us all reminiscing!

St. Patrick's Day supper and dance was everything good....a full house, 40 people, great atmosphere, Irish soda bread, stew, lots of potatoes included (along with an Irish version of Pearl's Dirt Cake).

**Murray Few,** calling since he was 15, will grace the building once again. He is a well known caller from Edmonton and is the guest caller for our Jamboree 'Across Canada' on May 4th, 5th and 6th, at the Hart Seniors' Center. We wonder at how this, our 61st year, flew by and are looking forward to this weekend, hoping to see dancers from other areas. I hear that the round Dancing Workshop (**Gary Dean**) will be Jive.

Some of us are thinking about Williams Lake's Stampede Whirlaways 60th 'Under The Bigtop' Jamboree May 25th, 26th, 27th; excellent hospitality and talented callers. (**Nick** and **Mary Anne Turner** with guest caller **Dustin McGifford**, and usually several volunteer callers for Sunday morning)

Many of our square and round dancers take in Saturday night dancing at 2 different seniors' centers: Old Time Fiddlers dances and jam sessions, line dancing lessons, and Ballroom Dance classes.

Some attend the annual Cowboy Festival in Kamloops, and Blue Grass weekends both in Hixon and Quesnel; friendly faces and a variety of bands, for those who want to expand their activities. (*Continued on page 7*)

#### (Continued from page 6)

Even with the 'old days' snow load this winter, people traveled one way or another, to Abbotsford, Vancouver, Puerto Vallarta, Dawson Creek, Lillooet, Kelowna, Kamloops....and other places we will hear about later.

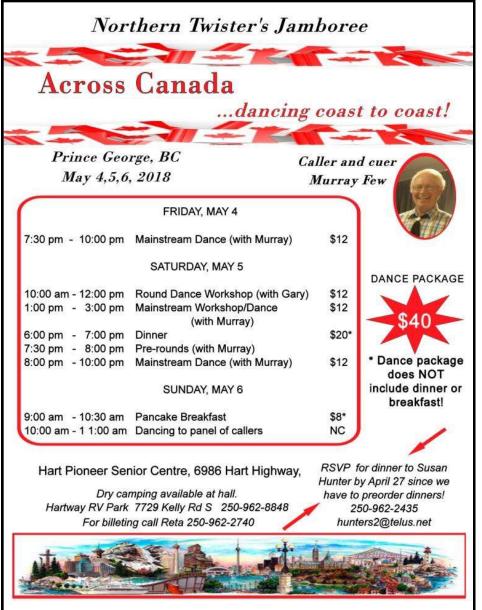
'Live Lively...Square Dance'...ask about getting stickers for your vehicle.

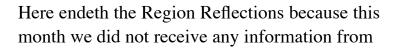
\*\*\*Feel free to browse at our website <u>www.northerntwisters.ca</u> and, you can check us out on Face Book.

#### Hot tip...

"If a square is going to be 2 strong couples and 2 weaker dancers, the strong couples should be across from each other, not adjacent. This gives strong corners and so, stronger figures." (Ed Foote)

\*\*\*If your travels bring you to Prince George you are welcome to join us.





Vanderhoof Drifting Squares,

Lac La Hache Caribooters

Dawson Creek Mile Zero Grand Squares

### Bíts n' Píeces



Editor's Note: As Williams Lake caller, **Nick Turne**r will be celebrating 40 years of calling for the Stampede Whirlaways in May, I asked him to reflect on how he got started.

**THEM WAS THE GOOD OL' DAYS** or My Start as a Caller

By Nick Turner

In the early 1970s, I was invited to join a small group of people who square danced once a week in the basement of a local rancher's house a few miles west of Alexis Creek. I'd never heard of Square Dancing but was game to give it a try.

We danced to singing call records played on a turntable with no speed control so we always danced singers like bats out of hell.

I learned to dance 'Tiny Bubbles', 'Pussy Cat', 'Rosabella', 'Houston' and 'Mighty Joe' from among the small collection of records. There was no Round Dancing.

The group grew bigger and we started to travel around the area to dance in other people's houses. In the living room of one, we tried to dance a song called 'Down In Old Mexico' but the called side was so scratched up, we could not make out the calls. The music side of the record was pristine so I volunteered to try calling the song - no microphone, no amplifier and of course, no experience and no practice and that was my start as a "caller."

Back in 'them good old days' of forty and more years ago, all Square Dance music was recorded on 45 rpm vinyl records. On one side was a caller doing the patter or singer and on the reverse side was just the music.

To hear new releases, callers joined a Square Dance record review service and each month received a cassette tape with samples of all the new music from the past month. They could then listen to 25 -30 new releases each month and order what they liked, pay by credit card - number already held by the record service (no hacking in the days) - and the records would be mailed to them sandwiched between two square pieces of cardboard - often held up at customs - and so a week or more after ordering they received their new music.

Times change and now callers can order directly from the music producers' websites with a click of the mouse, receive the MP3 download usually in minutes, upload it to their laptop and be practising the song. They can listen to new releases, find any song available on a website, pay by PayPal and 'Bob's your uncle.'

The music review service sold out to a new owner a few years ago who quickly dumped 200,000 vinyl records from the inventory in the trash.

The 45 rpm vinyl is a thing of the past and after a brief fling with CDs, and mini discs most callers today are fully digital.

If anyone is interested, I have all the cassette tapes and the notes from the vinyl years. Free for the asking! (You pay shipping.)

#### Square Dancing "Gifts" by Bill Cave

# What have we got in the boxes?

When a square dance club puts on a jamboree they are, in effect, giving a gift to the dancers of the other clubs who choose to attend. It's just not wrapped up in boxes with ribbons and bows.



All the time and effort club members

voluntarily put in to preparing for such an event demonstrates their willingness to undertake this labour of love.

The only thing required in return is the participation and enjoyment of the dancers who attend. I have yet to attend a jamboree at any club which didn't leave me feeling like I wanted more of the same; dancing, laughing, spirited conversation and lots of fun.

The Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways are currently planning and preparing for their 60th Anniversary to be held on May 25th to 27th. During the Jamboree weekend a number of landmarks will be celebrated including **Nick Turner's** 40th Anniversary of square dance calling for the Whirlaways.

The weekend, as always, will be an event to behold: "*The Greatest Show on Earth*" a circus theme. As always, the club members have been hard at work preparing decorations and putting in hours of practice for their roles. Bring your costume, join in and prepare to be amazed!

If you want to find out what's in the boxes and experience all the other surprises that have been prepared for your enjoyment, please plan to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**We Don't Make Changes Anymore.** by Nick Turner

In fact there are a lot of things we don't do anymore in our own Region 5 Square Dance world.

Most of us don't travel far from our own club. Many of us don't dance as fast as we used to. Some of us don't twirl or swing. Few of us collect badges like we used to.

Remember how we would swap with another dancer or couple in a different square as we danced? Or wrap the caller in toilet paper while he was calling, or take a square and a caller to another club to steal their banner?

Does this mean that Square Dancing isn't so much fun anymore?

Not at all. It's simply recognizing that Square Dancers, by and large, are getting older. Many of us no longer have the energy to do the work necessary to create a new special dance or spice up our old special dances, so we tend to stick with the old tried and true - same theme, same jokes, same food, same music.

The refrains, "We've always done it this way" and "Tried that, it doesn't work." become the guiding mantra because the same people have been doing the work for years but are perhaps reluctant to let newer or younger leaders guide our clubs.

Perhaps we can put the energy back into our clubs by supporting new leaders, old or young, as they try out their new ideas and suggestions.

Then the old-timers can have a well deserved rest and more time to enjoy dancing.

#### Another Idea to Add Fun to a Club Night

I had an interesting chat with Williams Lake Square Dancer, **Marie Gibbons.** She was telling me about an activity that she had organized for her church group and I thought that it might be fun for a square dance night, also.

The idea would be for dancers to bring an item that had been in their family for a long time and put it on display for others to see and wonder about during the evening.

At coffee break or some other appropriate time in the evening, dancers could take turns telling everyone the story behind the article or identifying what it was, if need be.

Marie called her evening The Antiques Roadshow which seems like a fun idea.

Here is an example. To the right is a photo of an item that Nick Turner has proudly owned for over 60 years.

Can you guess what it is and why he would have been proud of it?



A square dance Antiques Road Show would be a fun time to learn a bit more about our fellow dancers.

Of course, we should specify that our partners can't qualify to be the antique that you bring to the dance!

## It's Not Too Early to Plan for Summer of 2019!



The Thompson-Shuswap and Okanagan Square & Round Dance Associations invite all dancers **worldwide** to come dance with us at the **BC FESTIVAL on JULY 11-13, 2019 in SALMON ARM, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**.

This is a <u>full festival</u>. and includes workshops for various levels in **Square**, **Round**, **Clogging**, **Contra**, **and Line** dancing. In addition, there is a Trail-In dance on July 10 and a Trail-Out dance on July 14.

The Thompson-Shuswap and Okanagan regions are renowned for their wineries, orchards, lakes, and beaches. Why not make it a holiday as you weave your way through the wonders and beauty in our area! <u>Salmon Arm is a popular tourist</u> <u>destination and accommodations should be</u> <u>booked as soon as possible.</u>

Please visit our website <u>bcfestival2019.com</u> for registration form, fees, brochure, accommodations, and caller/cuer questionnaire. More Information will be posted as it becomes available.

Williams Lake Generosity - In and Out of the Square Dance World by Jeanie Vant

On February 10, 2018. Neil and I attended a "Change of Heart" fund raiser for Michelle La Place who had only just had her heart transplant. Many people gathered at TRU University, in Williams Lake, where a dinner, silent auction and two different bands were playing, mostly dance music. Nine from our Stampede Whirlaways Dance Club attended. \$1,200 was raised.

All through the evening Betz and Rae Ratch; Anne Christy and Ray Coupe; Kay Stafford and David White, enjoyed dancing. They were so delightful to watch. They even performed one dance with all six working together. Dana Ball, our president, also danced with Ray Coupe on one occasion. I couldn't help thinking that Mary Anne and Nick Turner, our Round and Square Dance Callers, had a hand in teaching these dancers their skills or perhaps it was all the practise they have had from dancing at the Legion.

In early March, The Parade of Choirs raised over \$3,000 for Hough Memorial, a fund that pays toward purchasing Hospital Equipment.

Not long after that \$14,000 was raised for Luci, a little girl with Leukemia.

And then, our Square Dance Club held an auction and gave a significant gift of \$ 1,365 to the Child Development Center.

Good for you Williams Lake for your generosity - both in and out of the square dance world.



#### Keep Your Dance Shoes On, Folks.

Although the dance season in Region 5 may be coming to an end - keep your dance shoes handy.

Throughout this issue there are ads for various dances that will be taking place this Spring and Summer. They will only be successful if you support them. Without support, these events will die out.

Of special interest to Region 5 are:

Prince George 61st Jamboree - May 4-6, 2018 Williams Lake 60th Jamboree - May 26-28, 2018

Hope to see you there. Let's party together!



#### **REGION 5 DANCE SCHEDULE 2018**

(We have tried to be accurate but suggest phoning to confirm the event before travelling.)

WHEN	WHERE	Event	CALLERS/ CUERS
April 12, 2018	Vanderhoof	Drifting Squares 15th Birthday	Gys, Dolores, Sandi
May 4-6, 2018	Prince George	61 st Spring Jamboree Weekend	Murray Few
May 25-27, 2018	Williams Lake	60th Spring Jamboree - Under the Big Top Theme	Dustin McGifford, Nick and Mary Anne Turner
June 15-17, 2018	Chase	Chase the Fun Square & Round Dance Weekend	Steve Edlund, Sandy Meyer
July 19-21, 2018	London, Ont.	Canadian National Festival 2018	Many Callers & Cuers
Aug 8-11, 2018	Pentiction	15th Peachfest Jamboree	Many Callers & Cuers

#### Once again - We all owe thanks to these people

- \* our callers and cuers for their time and dedication
- \* our members who serve on executives (local and regional)
- \* our members who write for the Cariboo Connection
- \* those members who support the club by turning up for dances, parades, demos and to help the new dancers
- \* those members who work on the refreshment/kitchen committee
- \* those who help with the setup and cleanup for a dance event
- \* those who help the caller and cuer with their equipment

It's true that many hands make light work and square dancers throughout our region generally make a great team. Next season, try to be a part of this team. It'll make you feel good and your help will be most appreciated.

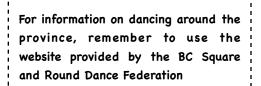
### That's a Wrap for This Season !

This edition wraps up the 19th year of the Cariboo Connection Newsletter. Thank you to those who contributed to the 3 issues this year.

There are many more of you out there that we haven't heard from, however - especially new dancers and callers and cuers. Perhaps next season you will summon up the courage to write an article.

There are lots of possible topics - tell about a dance event you went to, share ideas for a theme dance, share recruitment ideas or successes, thank someone in the dance world, etc.

We look forward to hearing from you next October.



www.squaredance.bc.ca or call the InfoLine at 1-800-335-9433



For more copies of the Cariboo Connection, or to read it online, go to the R5CCDA website at www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca

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