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W I N T E R E D I T I O N

The CARIBOO CONNECTION

ISSUE # 47

EDITORS: MARY ANNE & NICK TURNER

Attention - all Clubs ! A response is required.

In March the BCS&RD Federation Board of Directors will hold their annual meeting in Abbotsford. In Region 5 we are very lucky to have 4 volunteers to serve as our delegates to this meeting. They are

Helen and Henry Hall

(helen3855@gmail.com)

Bill and Marilyn Rose

(bilmar2@hotmail.com)

Prior to the meeting they are required to send a report from our region to the BCS&RDF secretary. Please assist them with this report by sending them an email with information about your club. Things like:

- how many members your club has
- how many new dancers you have this year and how are they doing
- does your club have any Milestone events coming up this year that you are going to be celebrating?
- any caller or cuer news?
- anything you want the rest of the province to know about your club?

Also, do you have any questions or concerns that you want our delegates to relay to the Federation? If so let them know.

These reports are due in **soon** so please don't delay. Our delegates should receive an email from each club.

Put "Report for BOD" in the subject line of your email.



WANTED: PHOTOGRAPHERS.

For better success in marketing square and round dancing, we need to modernize some of our strategies. One thing we can do is move away from tired, old fashioned clipart on all our posters and instead use photos of real dancers having fun.

To do this, Region 5 (that's us!) needs to start building a collection of printable photos for use in publicity - both on posters and flyers and also for any social media postings. This collection could then be made available for all of us to use.

To kickstart this collection, the Region 5 Caller, Cuer, Dancer Association (R5CCDA) executive has decided to sponsor a photo contest with a \$50.00 prize for the photo that best meets their criteria. We don't want the same old, same old. The photos need to be sharp, colourful and show people aged 30-60 smiling, dancing and socializing. We want close ups of people showing the joy they are feeling when they attend a dance. They can be shown in a square or as a couple or group or even as singles - preferably not in full Square Dance costume, but more casually dressed. The idea is to attract younger people, especially the 30 - 60 year olds to come dancing.

If your club welcomes teens or younger, then photos showing them having fun would also be valuable.

So, if you enjoy photography why not start snapping at every opportunity when you are out dancing or getting together. Pick out **only your very best shots** and email them in high resolution to Mary Anne (nmturner@telus.net) (Maximum 2 photos per email so our email server can handle them.) Don't send photos of Santa Claus dancing or Halloween costumes or squares that are far away and all we see are many backs. I repeat, we are looking for good quality dancing photos that can be used for promotion.

There are at least 4 great photos on the West Coast Square Dancing web site that are terrific examples of what we are looking for. Check them out at <http://www.westcoastsquaredance.com>

If you come up with a photo be sure to ask those in it for permission to use their picture in any publicity for Square Dancing. It is possible that the BC Square & Round Dance Federation might be interested in building a portfolio for use all over the province and such a portfolio might be used anywhere in the world. Your subjects need to be aware of this. (Famous at last!)

Come on folks, we don't need to raise massive amounts of money to hire professional photographers. Let's do it ourselves. **We want the photos in time to use them for promotion in the fall, so deadline date to submit them will be July 1, 2015.**

REGION REFLECTIONS

Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways by Gil Mc Call

We just keep swingin' along. Another year is with us. Let's hope 2015 is a great year for all dancers everywhere. While reminiscing a bit, I've personally been square dancing for over forty years! It is, and continues to be, a big blast. I think of all the very good friends I've met while dancing with the clubs in Quesnel, Prince George and Williams Lake and, of course, attending jamborees and special events throughout the province and beyond.

Square and Round Dancing has so many benefits. Off the top of my head, I think first of the camaraderie and that this recreation is a dandy in one's pursuit of keeping fit. You are able to set your own pace—where I used to swing three times, now it's down to one! Being active enhances overall well-being and relieves stress.

For me personally, I've found that dancing is such a great way to be involved with a lot of fine people in the community. And I do enjoy the music. It has changed so much for the better over the years. While I still like the old-time hoedowns and reels, I'm glad that the callers now include everything from rock-and-roll to the blues, pop, swing, modern country and more. Now, if I could remember how to do the Grand Spin?????

Special events constitute a major part of our Whirlaways activities. Our annual Christmas dinner was a rousing success. Of course the meal was over the moon and Santa did a great job. Again, members brought food items for the less fortunate. Our new dancers joined us and we danced at their level for the evening - quite advanced for such a new group - and they enjoyed being able to mix and mingle with the club. One of the highlights for me was the **Nick and Mary Anne** duet near the end of the evening. They should sing together on a regular basis. Well done!

The annual March Merriment is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th at the Child Development Center...with Pre-rounds at 7:00 p.m. and Mainstream dancing at 7:30. Following the dance, we enjoy member-donated pie and ice-cream. Yum. After consuming half the pies, the rest are auctioned, with the proceeds going to the CDC, which plays such an important role in the Williams Lake area. Out-of-towners would be welcomed with open arms---so please come along to enjoy the festivities and get yourself a bargain pie!

Be sure to mark May 22, 23 and 24 on your calendar. Those are the dates for our 57th Jamboree. Popular caller **Dustin McGifford** will be back as our guest caller. As usual, the **Turners** will handle the Friday night dance and the Saturday morning Roundaree. The theme this year is 'Jolly Olde England', and who knows what special features this may entail....perhaps an Olde English Pub? High tea? I'm told the Queen might attend! For certain there will be a roast beef dinner...perhaps served with 'bubble and squeak'!

The decoration and special entertainment committees are working their Olde English tails off in preparation. The jamboree will be held this year at the LONGHOUSE, which is located right downtown, adjacent to the stampede grounds. There will be plenty of space for dryland camping and parking and the RV campground is within walking distance. If you would like further information, call President **Marie Gibbons** at 250-392-5360 or **Nick and Mary Anne Turner** at 250-392-2432.

We're happy to report that our new dancers have started the second section of their venture and are doing just great.



The poster is shaped like a house. The roof is black with white text. The left side of the roof reads "Child Development Center 690 North 2nd Avenue Williams Lake, BC". The right side reads "Saturday March 7, 2015". The main body of the house is white. In the center, it says "March Merriment and Pie Night". Below this, there is a cartoon illustration of a jester holding a pie. To the right of the jester, it lists the schedule: "7:00 P.M. Pre-Rounds - Mary Anne Turner" and "7:30 P.M. Mainstream Dance - Nick Turner". Below the schedule, it says "\$8.00 each". Underneath that, it reads "After the dance, enjoy pie & ice cream". At the bottom, it says "Dance, Eat, and Be Merry!". To the right of this text is a cartoon illustration of a mouse holding two pies. At the bottom left, there is a small note: "(Extra pies will be auctioned after the dance. Proceeds will go to charity.)" and the phone number "Marie 250-392-5360".

Lac La Hache News by Bill Rose

The Lac La Hache Caribooters are still very active and usually have two squares each week, starting with pre-rounds at 1:30 p.m. and square dancing from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays at the O.A.P Hall in Lac La Hache.

An item that will be of interest for those passing through our area and want to join us: we have now decided that if Monday falls on a holiday we will dance on Tuesday to allow us to keep on dancing every week.

Our Christmas party on December 8th, was attended by two squares. After dancing we had a delicious potluck dinner that was prepared by our ladies. This year we decided to donate a non-perishable food item instead of exchanging gifts. This seemed to work out well with the donations being picked up by the Lac La Hache Volunteer Fire Department and distributed by them to the needy in our area.

Marilyn and I were unable to attend the New Year's Eve Dance this year but have been told that it was enjoyable. In attendance were 16 members to allow two squares to dance. Following was a dinner prepared by our ladies and it went well. The New Year was brought in after dinner and the members were able to get home early - to attend another celebration or retire early to bed.

The **Roses** have gone down to the Coast every year since 1999 to celebrate Christmas with their children and have been driving home in time to enjoy the New Year's festivities with our dancing friends. However, this year we decided to stay down on the Coast and join our friends from Langley to attend a New Year's concert at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver. This year was a "Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert 2015" featuring The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. The Conductor was Imre Kollar from Budapest, the Soprano was Katarzyna Dondalska from Berlin/Warsaw and the Tenor was Martin Piskorski from Vienna. The show featured ballet and ballroom dancing throughout the afternoon, featuring the Kiev-Aniko Ballet of Ukraine and International Champion Ballroom Dancers. Attendance was a sell out of over 2000 persons and it was a very professional presentation. Total time was 2-1/2 hours of non-stop music and dancing. We would not hesitate to go again next year. It was worth the cost of admission (\$72.00 each) Tickets for next year's performance are now on sale.

On March 28th, **Bill** and **Marilyn Rose** along with **Henry** and **Helen Hall** will be attending the BCS & RD Federation meeting to be held at 10:00 am in Abbotsford. As the delegates for Region 5 we ask if you have any items that we should be bringing up for discussion, please let us know.

By the time you receive this issue of the Connection, you may have missed our Caribooters' Valentine Dance being held on February 16th but on February 22nd, we will hold our My Tie Dance at the Green's at Sulphurous Lake. This is where we dance on snowshoes on the frozen lake as well as other activities. This is followed by a delicious "Bean Bake" prepared by **Irene Green** plus all of our side dishes supplied by members attending. Guests are welcome but let us know so we can have enough food prepared.

On March 16th, we will hold our St Patrick's Day Dance Party. This year we will be auditioning for Goofer Callers and apparently we have a number of members enlisted already. It should be a fun event. Guests are welcome but be prepared to do a call or two!

Lac La Hache Caribooters



St Patrick's Day Party



March 16, 2015



4822 Clarke Ave



Pre Rounds 1:30 pm

Mainstream & New Dancers 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Cost \$6.00/person



Square Dancing In BC

You can keep up with square dance news in BC by following the BC Square and Round Dance Federation on their Facebook page. Click the Like button.

Go to

www.facebook.com/

BCSquareAndRoundDanceFederation

Live Lively -



Square Dance!

Mile Zero Grand Squares

by Jean Smith

The Mile Zero Grand Squares started dancing the last Monday in September. We had no new dancers join us this season. We have 3 squares dancing on most nights if everybody shows up. It has been a good year to teach a few more advanced moves because there are no new dancers. Our regular dancers are enjoying their chance to advance to some harder moves.

A potluck supper was held on Dec. 22nd. We had a good attendance and plenty of delicious food, especially the desserts. There were plenty of leftovers to snack on after the dance. Everyone had a great time with square dancing, contra dancing, spot dances and rounds. After the dance everyone participated in a white elephant Chinese gift exchange. It was a great way to end the party and head home to enjoy a break for the Christmas holidays.

Pat and Robin O'Reilly, our square dance couple, travelled to the Antarctic, stopping at several different locations on their way there and on the way home. They had a wonderful time hiking, sleeping on the ice field and getting close up to the penguins.

Joyce Sipe a well known pioneer in square dancing throughout the Peace Country in Alberta and B.C. passed away in Beaverlodge, Alberta November 19th, 2014, at the age of 85 years. Joyce was able to live in the home on the farm she loved until she passed away. She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by all who knew her.

We had the opportunity to dance for some seniors' homes and a care home and the elderly and shut-ins enjoyed seeing and socializing with the dancers. On Jan. 25th we will be dancing at the Northern Lights College for the Alzheimer's Walk for Memories.

We are still trying to convince our dancers to travel to the spring and summer jamborees. Not sure if there will be any interest but all we can do is try. Wish us luck!

Our last dance of the season will be March 30th there will be a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. and square dancing will follow. Hope to see some of you on the dance floor soon.

Skeena Squares (Terrace) by Diane Weismiller

Skeena Squares have been dancing since October 20th on Monday nights at Cassie Hall School. When everyone is able to come we have two squares plus an extra dancer or two. We are pleased to have 5 new dancers in the group this year and they are learning quickly.

I am using our ipad and the school projector to help play the music and teach the moves. Our program is based on the lessons in Moving and Grooving and we also use the Traveling Hoedowners video. Just now we are working on Flutterwheel and looking forward to learning a few more calls so that we can dance to more of the records that we have in our collection. Many thanks to Nick and Mary Anne for their helpful advice and support.

This week Art and I are looking forward to making the train trip to Prince George to join the Northern Twisters for their Burns Night Dance. It is always fun to dance with our eastern neighbours from Region 5.



Welcome to Prince George for our Spring....



Featuring: **Jerry Jestin**, Caller/cuer

June 5, 6 & 7, 2015

WEEKEND PROGRAM

June 5	7:30 to 8:00	Pre Rounds - Panel of Caller/Cuers
Friday	8:00 to 10:00	Dance
June 6	1:00 to 3:00	Work Shop
Saturday	6:00	Dinner
	7:30 to 10:00	Dance
June 7	9:00 am	Breakfast
Sunday	10:00 to 11:00	Sendoff dance Panel of cuers & callers

Venue: Hart Pioneer Center, 6966 Hart Highway, Prince George, B.C.



(Costs and contacts to be included in next issue)



Vanderhoof Drifting Squares by Sandi Jespersen

The Summer was glorious, even if it was smokey and hot. Our dancers travelled and we danced a little.

Now we are settled into a routine and we have mostly had one square. We did have to cancel once because of lack of dancers. We danced at the Nechako Manor (extended care) and had a good turn out of dancers and residents and we got our picture in the paper. Our Christmas dance was the only dance so far where we have had 2 squares on the floor - although briefly. Thanks to all dancers that come out no matter what the weather or other events in their lives. We occasionally have people drop in to watch and we are hoping they will help us spread the word.

This fall has been hard for **Alice Clemmenson**. She has some issues with her knee and is unable to dance at present. She is off work until end of March and we hope her surgery will come soon. But her husband **Erling** comes out when he can.

I am glad to say that **Doreen** and **Peter Menu** are trying to come back to dance. They have been back twice but because their home is under (new) construction, he is putting in long days and is unable to come as often as they like. Good luck on the new home.

Dave Riske and myself attended the Seniors' Health Fair in early November. We had a table with music playing, leaflets, full sized banner for "Dance for the Health of it". Some interest, but because we were right by the door, no one could ever say they didn't know we are in town!! The main reason to hold the Srs' Health Fair is to have a place for the public to get flu shots. The table is free to us, and we are hoping to make this an annual event. The day is for exposure not dance demo (a shame) but being able to get our faces and name out there is of great benefit.

Now it's January again and we are back at it. **Gys Koops** our caller from PG is awaiting knee surgery, so we are uncertain when he might be called to have that done. We hope it is soon but he has continued to come and call every 2nd and 4th Thursday. For that we thank him. **Dolores Young** has continued to cue rounds and help Sandi with the squares. We are a happy dancing group. I want to thank Dolores for taking on a large portion of the calling duties in our club. I appreciate the dedication.

Congratulations to **Derrick** age 11. He has completed his basic requirements for his home schooling in dance. He attended our beginners' squares for 10 weeks (Oct. through Jan.) and did a good job. His mom, **Laura**

Ruiter, was his partner most of the time and we thank her for bringing him along. We would like to see him continue and join us whenever he can.

Thanks to the members of the Terrace Skeena Squares for picking up the clothes forwarded by the Williams Lake Whirlaways and to the PG dancers for donating clothes. They will be passed onto the Terrace Dancers in early Spring.

This winter we have the Valentine's Dance on Feb 12th (regular dance); St Patty's Dance on March 12th (regular dance); Our 12th Anniversary/Birthday Dance, April 10th, potluck at 5:30, rounds 6:30 and Mainstream at 7:00 Callers will be Gys, Sandi and Dolores. Final dance (subject to change) May 8th. (same info as birthday dance)

We are also planning on dancing at Riverside Place (independent living) sometime in April or May.

Some of us are planning on attending the Williams Lake Jamboree in June, the PG Jamboree in June and we WILL be dancing at the Nechako Valley Exhibition in Vanderhoof once again in August.

Come out and join us for a dance and refreshments. We'd love to have you there and we might even get 3 squares!!!

Congrats to **Gys Koops** who is once again a grampa. Over Christmas his son and his girlfriend adopted a 7 year old. The family tree has a new branch and maybe a new dancer.

Happy New Year to all and the best in 2015!! See you on the dance floor.

FESTIVAL 2016
Canadian Square & Round Dance Society
July 28, 29 & 30
Saskatchewan Trade and Convention Centre
Delta Regina
Contact Bill Treleaven 306-580-7141
tree-line@hotmail.com
www.sashfestival2016.ca

Prince George Northern Twisters (58 years of Square Dancing Fun) by Julie Skead

Happy New Year everyone! What's good for your soul but not good for your soles? Right.....dancing!

Hello again, as we move through 2015, meeting for friendship, laughter, mental and physical exercise and learning, forgetting our troubles, AND potentially lowering our risk of heart disease, diabetes, age-related memory loss, osteoporosis, and depression! No exercise class I have ever signed up for has had such a dedicated set of members.

On Monday Mainstream club evenings, we continue to boast 3 to 5 squares of Beginners, Mainstream and Plus dancers and some beginners and experienced 'Round' dancers. THANKS always to those who regularly help with chairs, snacks, coffee, and hall clean up every Monday, and to the members who plan, shop, man the kitchen, make and set up decorations, and prepare food for our 'special' dances. (Thanks, Julie, for your PG articles for the Cariboo Connection! Ed)

Our calm, cool, collected caller and instructor is **Gys Koops**, with **Don Hollis**, **Dolores Young**, and **Maurice Mingay** jumping in calling and or cueing, honing their skills. We appreciate also of course, our Executive and the dancers who support us: Membership, Publicity, Posters and Flyers, Social Convener, Sunshine, Photography, Historian, Webmaster, Cariboo Connection newsletter, and Phoning.

We're happy to acknowledge **Maurice Mingay** and **Ray Lougheed**, Four Score and More members (80 years and more) to our list of 10.

Our November Snowflake supper and dance brought out 60 smiling faces. We admired the dedication of **Susan** and other volunteers who once again added decorations and table attire to make our evening special. We welcomed back, guest Caller **Merv Myer** and cuer **Sandy Gregson-Meyer** from Kamloops. Dancers who took part in the workshops appreciated square dance coaching including singing call duets, and the Round Dance part with a feel good Latin flavor. Merv has been calling since 2000, Sandy cueing only since 2009. They are amazing examples of what smiling,

being positive, warm, reassuring and encouraging can do for the spirits of dancers of all ages.

Over 50 dancers enjoyed our Christmas Supper and Dance. (including what has become traditional, 'Dirt Cake' thanks to dancers **Pearl** and **Kevin**).

Beginner square dancers had their first opportunity to try a full dance of Mainstream calling. We all know from our first seasons, how much friendly faces and helpful coaching is appreciated and important. **Gys**, **Maurice Mingay**, **Dolores Young**, and **Don Hollis** kept us hopping. The decorating crew is to be thanked again, also those who come early and stay late to do set up and take down, and take over kitchen responsibilities. Lots of meeting and greeting was happening throughout the evening.

Thanks! to 25 Year Honorary member, **Myrtle Nesbit**, our dear late **Eugene's** wife, and daughter, **Lyn S.**, plus **Glenda M.**, **Dianne W.**, **Gloria M.**, **Dolores Y.**, **Krystal L.**, **Lavinia O.**, **Laurel M.**, who continue to help us out by jumping in to take the gentleman's part when it's needed.

Ray put in some volunteer time at the Railway and Forest Museum over their 2 week Christmas theme at the park, keeping the bonfire going, entertaining with his guitar, and conducting for rides on their 2 popular mini electric trains.

Maurice M., **Gervin H.**, **Pat S.**, and **Ray L.** continue to sing with the Tenth Avenue Seniors' Center's 'Forever Young' choir. Their center's annual Christmas performance was sold out, and care homes, residences like The Chateau, The Northern (store) and other public venues enjoyed the choir's enthusiastic seasonal music. (Their theme for the new year is Broadway!)

I (Julie) finally took advantage of my sister's 6 year career on a Celebrity cruise ship, and got approval to get a deal, with a high school friend, **Sharon**, and be a 'standby' guest on a Caribbean cruise. Options for this venture had to be researched to avoid \$250 a night hotels for 12 days if we were informed on the pier, that there were no 'standby' cabins available. (Reasonable ones included heading for Las Vegas, Cancun, Great Bahama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Florida car rental and air boat/alligators/Space Centre activities or all-inclusives, all requiring being back at Ft. Lauderdale for the flight home! } So...'to be continued' in the next Cariboo Connection!

Philip N. went on a wonderful holiday to Fiji, set in motion by his son's wedding there. He made it a surprise visit, and was so grateful for the opportunity to attend.

China...if you care to look in to it, contact **Gervin** and **Cathy Halladay**. They were so impressed with the itinerary and the expertise they encountered. Tong Shing, for example, 34 million people, and a 5 day riverboat cruise (180 people) down the Yangtze River, and on to Shanghai, the world's busiest container port. Then there's Beijing...temples, parks, and the museum and ongoing work at an archaeological site, e.g., The Terracotta Warriors and Horses, life-sized figures arranged in battle formations. They are replicas of what the



imperial guard should look like in those days of pomp and vigor. Add to all this, a bonsai garden tour...traditional miniature natural landscaping with added cultivation technology, creative design, and attentive care. OK, Gervin and Cathy, how do you explain that 'winding down' from that grand vacation included "24 hours of laundry back in PG" then to Edmonton for a special Christmas with your 3 children and spouses and 5 grandchildren?

Other dancers spent relaxing holidays in Hawaii, Mexico, Arizona, Alberta, the Kootenays, the Okanagan, Vancouver Island, and the lower mainland.

Our January Robbie Burns Supper and Dance has always been unique. Classy plaid banners and table decorations warm the hearts of those of us with Scottish ancestry. Bagpipe music brings in the haggis to accompany our roast beef dinner and an ode is traditionally read. Many dancers sport plaid to show their passion or spirit for the occasion. Our caller/cuer for this event is **Ray Brendzy** from Burnaby. Ray and his wife started dancing at a young age. He called his first full dance at age 13 and was a youth club caller by 16. He has called and taught Advance since 1986 and coached many top level callers, including Steve Edlund, Brent Mawdsley, Chris Knowles, Bryan Clark and Alison Hampton. Ray has promoted the teen dancing and festivals throughout North America. Ray and Christine have made teaching videos, and travel the world as ambassadors for the square dance movement.

*Hey...remember to keep informed and inspired through local and provincial square dancing websites and videos online, and by reading our region 5 Caller, Cuer, Dancer Association Bulletins online or emailed to those of you I have addresses for. e.g., read the results of the provincial survey many took part in, input/ ideas for promoting/ revitalizing dancing.

*Here's a 'heads up'. There are unique club dancing events planned throughout our province, other provinces, and in the States, that you may want to travel to, perhaps fitting one in with your family visits/ holiday plans. The dancers warmly welcome visitors and will be honored that you are there. The callers know the challenges we face 'spreading our wings' in this way and have excellent senses of humor.

Dancers, please watch for opportunities to invite past dancers, other acquaintances and family to join you for club suppers or any dance nights. Show them your activity/ undertaking/specialty/enthusiasm. Perhaps you will plant a seed.

Travelers to the Prince George area please plan to join us in dance, Mondays 7:00 P.M. at Knox United Church on 5th and Brunswick.



Something to Plan For

Partner Up Prairie Style

In 2016, "Spectacular Saskatchewan" will welcome the world to the Canadian Square, Round and Clogging Dance Festival. The Festival will be centered in the "Queen City", Regina on July 28,29, 30, 2016.

Headquarters for the Festival will be at the **Delta Hotel**. The Delta is centrally located for shopping, restaurants, casino and museums. All are within walking distance.

Known as the Land of the Living Skies, Saskatchewan is home to the 2013 Grey Cup Champs: Saskatchewan Roughriders.

We urge you to plan ahead and come to our "Sunny Province".

The prairies have so much to offer—so, in 2016 "Partner Up, Prairie Style" and join us at the 2016 Canadian Square, Round and Clogging Dance Festival!

Info on their website at
<http://www.saskfestival2016.com/>

or their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/saskfestival2016>

Here's a "Heads Up"
for an exciting new dance event in the
Thompson - Shuswap in 2015
It's "Chase the Fun"
June 19, 20 and 21

at the Chase Community Hall
 547 Shuswap Ave., Chase, BC

Starring Steve Edlund as Featured Caller
 with Cuers Sandy Meyer & Mariann Sanford

catered dinner Sat. night

dry camping at Hall or
 riverside camping with hook-up
 at Lion's campground

Rotary Club
 pancake breakfast Sun.

Watch for more info & details
 coming soon!

Kamloops Square Dancers
SWEETHEART SWING

Saturday February 14th / 2015
 At
 St. Paul's Cathedral 360 Nicola St. & 4th Ave
Caller: Steve Edlund Cuer: Pat Meyer

Afternoon Plus
 Pre Rounds 2:00 - 2:30 Squares 2:30 - 4:30

Mainstream
 Pre Rounds 7:30 - 8:00 Squares 8:00 - 10:00
 \$10.00 Per Person Per dance Coffee 10:10

FMI Contact
 Brent Olsen 250-376-4692 brentandkarenolsen@gmail.com
 Ross Kerr 250-376-5999 rosskerr@shaw.ca

Sandman Inn 250-374-1218 has reserved rooms for dancers needing over night
 accommodations' \$64+ tax

Williams Lake to Quesnel for New Year's Eve
 by Pat MacKay

On New Years Eve a group of twenty square and line dancers car-pooled for a trip to Quesnel. The road was good as we travelled north and the Christmas lights on many of the houses, businesses and scattered ranches cheered us on our way. For me the lights are the nicest part of the holiday season, brightening up even the most miserable winter days. I'm thinking of leaving my outside lights on until the end of January next year!

The parking lot at the Quesnel Legion was almost empty when we arrived, but in a very short time the lot and the hall were packed. Luckily for us a couple of tables had been reserved for the 'Williams Lake Bunch', and we were warmly welcomed.

'Bronco' was a six member band consisting of guitars, fiddles and a female vocalist who also played the tambourine. They were excellent and produced a good variety of music for the crowd of exuberant dancers, who gave it their all.

A buffet of cold meats, cheeses, buns, vegetables and dip was set out at eleven. The length of the line was proof that everyone had worked up a good

appetite during the past three hours. Midnight arrived with the usual ballyhoo - hats, squeakers, toasts to the New Year and much hugging. The band continued playing until close to one thirty a.m. and about half the crowd stayed to the very end. We had danced the Old Year out and the New Year in - the older generation keeping up with - and sometimes surpassing - the younger one!

Some of our group stayed in Quesnel overnight. **Ellen Wieve** didn't come home until the following evening as she had continued to Prince George with her daughter to see Cirque de Soleil. She had been given the ticket by her granddaughter for Christmas. Nice gift. Apparently it was a wonderful show.

For us, the journey back to Williams Lake was not as pleasant as that of going to Quesnel. The cold and freezing rain was a shock to the system after leaving the heated hall, but **Bill Deadmarsh** had warmed up the truck earlier so we all traveled in comfort. He got our little group home safely in spite of having to stop periodically to clear the ice off the windshield.

It was a quarter to four that morning when I finally turned off the light. Everyone agreed that it had been a memorable New Year's celebration.

Cor Blimey!
Hop on Board for the
"Jolly Old England"
Jamboree



Weekend Package \$45.00 each

Williams Lake
Mainstream Jamboree
May 22-24, 2015

Dig out your bowler hats, tiaras, or your red, white and blue in honour of the heritage of our club caller.



Note our
NEW LOCATION

The Long House

(Upper Left side of Stampede Grounds, near the Curling Rink)

At intersection of Hwy 97 and Hwy 20, turn on to Hwy 20.

Take first exit right on to Mackenzie Avenue.

Turn right on 7th Avenue (just in front of Auto Pro sign) and go up the hill. Turn right on Pinchbeck St.

Go almost to end of street and the hall driveway will be on your left.

For Info
Marie 250-392-5360

Nick 250-392-2432
nmturmer@telus.net

Free dry camping at the hall but the WL Stampede Campground is located very near by. Reservations are likely needed. See

www.williamslake
stampede.com
/campground

Friday - **England Swings** - \$8.00 each

7:30 PM Pre-Rounds
8:00 PM Mainstream Dancing

Caller: Nick Turner
Cuer: Mary Anne Turner



Saturday Morning
10:00 - 11:30 AM

Enjoy a
Round Dance Social
with
Mary Anne and
Nick Turner
Phase II+

\$6.00 each



Saturday Afternoon
1:30 PM

It's A Royal Event

Caller - **Dustin McGifford**
will lead us in some Mainstream dancing fun.

A 'Royal' guest will join us for refreshments.

\$8.00 each



Saturday Evening
6:00 PM



Enjoy a
Delicious Supper
at the
Black Prince Tavern

\$16.00 each

Saturday Night - The Beefeaters' Ball

7:30 PM Pre-rounds
with
Mary Anne Turner



8:00 PM Mainstream Dancing
with
Our Featured Caller:
Dustin McGifford

\$10.00 each

Guest Callers and Cuers welcome on Sunday

Sunday - Enjoy a Continental breakfast and casual dancing before saying, "**Cheerio**." - \$6.00 each

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM - Breakfast is Served
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Mainstream Dancing

Your Smile for the Day
from
Gil McCall

The rain was pouring and there was a big puddle in front of the 'Olde English Pub'.

A ragged old man was standing there with a rod and hanging a string into the puddle.



A curious gentleman came over and said, "What are you doing?"

The old man said simply, "I'm fishing."

Feeling sorry for the fella, the gentleman invited the 'fisherman' to a drink in the pub, and while sipping their whiskey, asked, "How many have you caught today?"

With a broad smile, the old guy answered, "Ah, you are number eight today."

Share Your Love of Dance with your Children (or Grandchildren)!

I read an interesting article recently about a mother who had been a professional dancer. She wanted to share her love of dance with her son and daughter but Ballet, Jazz, etc. just didn't appeal to them. They were dance forms that took years of training to master.

So, when her square dance club started their next session for New Dancers, she took her children to try it out. The children loved it. Although there was lots to learn, they felt like they were dancing right away. There was much laughter and happiness all around them on the dance floor throughout the evening.

The mother was happy that her children were finally feeling the joy that dance brings. She enjoyed being able to dance with them, too. She was pleased that they were learning a dance form that they could dance for much of the rest of their lives. In ensuing weeks, she watched with delight as her children grew in confidence and made friends and intergenerational connections.

Is it time to get back to encouraging families, children and/or grandchildren to try square dancing?

More Marketing Adventures

The Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways are constantly looking for new ways to market square dancing. Recently **Mary Anne** created a Facebook Fan Page for the club. This is different from the usual Facebook page. No one has to send a friend request in order to be able to see the page. They don't need to be a member of anything. All the postings are open to the public. **Anyone and everyone can read what is posted there even if they don't have a Facebook page of their own.**

First, the person who **creates** this page for your club must have a regular Facebook page of their own before they can create the new page. It is not difficult, there are many instructions available on the Internet. Be sure to learn how to use the settings, however, so that you can avoid having people write inappropriate comments on the page. Everything can be controlled by whoever is administering the page.

Second, with the agreement of your club members, you need to regularly post photos, posters, and information that might interest members of the public if they should happen across your page. Keep things interesting and positive.

Third, encourage club members to help you obtain ideas, photos, etc. to post on the page. Share the work. (See the poem to the right.)

The Whirlaways Club page is at
<https://www.facebook.com/williamslakesquaredancers>

Stop by and see what has been done. Clicking the Like button at the top of the page helps to make our page come up closer to the top of the list when people are looking for square dancing information in Williams Lake.

The club members have enjoyed using the page also. They often direct their friends or relatives to the page to see the photos and videos. If entries are made on a regular basis, it becomes like a memory book of your club activities.

It has been quite fascinating watching the activity on the page. One of the videos posted has been visited by 342 people and the Christmas photos have been viewed 354 times. Many of the visitors were from Williams Lake but many others were from out of town. It really is an interesting way to spread our square dance message.

If you need more information about this, email Mary Anne at
nmturner@telus.net

Below is a poem written by Whirlaway member, **Tom Bingham** for posting of our club Facebook page.

Avoiding Disappointment and a Big Butt!

by Tom Bingham

Do you sit around in the evenings
With nothing much to do?
Do you sit and watch the boob-tube
With sweets and refreshments too?

Is your butt getting much larger
Than what you would like to see,
And the breathing a lot tighter
Then what it used to be?

Does your spouse get disappointed
When you sit around at night?
Does your spouse want you off the couch
To get out and make things right?

Do you think there is a pastime
You might really like to do
With your spouse, maybe a neighbor
Or a group of people too?

One that gives you a lot of exercise
Both your body and your brain -
For there is no use in being old
If you don't even know your name.

In our town we have this group
They meet one night each week,
Young and old get all together
We're danced right off our feet

You're welcome to come and watch us
To make sure it's what you'd like
We're called the Williams Lake Whirlaways
And we meet each Thursday night

**Come and visit.
Thursdays, October - Mid April
7:30 - 9:30 PM**

**Williams Lake Child Development Center
690 N. 2nd Ave.**

More info at: **<http://wmslk.squaredance.bc.ca>**

Two Opinions on the Future of Square Dancing.

What's the Future for Mainstream?

by Nick Turner

There is a tremor in the Mainstream Square Dance world that might drastically shake up the Mainstream list of calls. For several years now there has been a groundswell of opinion that we have to **make the learning time shorter** in order to encourage the Boomers, Gen X and Gen Y to come square dancing. The one obvious way is to shorten "The List." (68 calls)

Callerlab has produced a list of 44 calls that they claim can be taught in 12 weeks. The West Coast Dance Program, developed by **Gord Ruedig** from Powell River B.C also has 44 calls but teachable in 10 weeks. **The American Callers Association** 'One Floor' program has 40-44 moves for a 12 - 14 week teach. I believe that all these are intended as Destination programs but I predict many callers in North America will ignore the concept and use them as just another way to get to Mainstream.

I think that this shorter list concept has missed the boat. *What we really need is a way to get new dancers integrated into our Mainstream clubs more quickly so that we all dance together sooner.* I believe we can do this in a way that keeps our Mainstream dancers happy because they will not feel that they have to "circle left all night with the newbies" and does not put stress on the new dancers to learn a lot in a short time.

I believe we can teach the new dancers enough interesting choreography in the 10 - 12 weeks up to Christmas to have them join the club in January. Then, if they learn one new MS call each week, before regular dancing starts, the experienced dancers will avoid the 'teach' in their dance evening.

We all benefit. More squares on the floor makes things feel like a party night every dance night. The new dancers get floor time with a lot more experienced dancers helping and for some, there is a chance to sit out a tip rather than feeling obliged to *have* to be up to fill a square. There is a good chance that most, if not all of the MS list will have been danced and practised by the new dancers by the end of the season. And we're ALL Square Dancing! New dancers are our life blood. We need them in our square.

Looking Ahead into 2015 and Beyond

by Tom Davis, President, American Callers' Association

Sometimes we hear someone say, "We used to have 15 squares every Friday or Saturday night. There used to be 150 squares at the State Convention. We would not think of starting a class unless there were at least 5 squares of new members.

Perhaps too much time and effort is spent on focusing on the past. Everyone would like to see square dancing become today what it was 25 or 35 years ago. This may not happen overnight but good things can happen if we keep it moving. Square dancing has been on the decline for at least 30 years. There is no magic cure or silver bullet that can turn the decline in the number of dancers around.

UNLESS:

Unless we start Looking Ahead this decline will continue. It is the goal of American Callers Association to Look Ahead, searching for new ways to **reduce the time and effort needed to bring new dancers into the activity by changing the activity to better fit the life style** changes of the demographic groups of Seniors (55 million people), Baby Boomers (78 million people), Generation X (41 million people), and Tweens & Teens (71 million people).

There are many people to join and dance. We have to look at the significant changes in lifestyles and **adjust our square dance program accordingly to fit their needs and preferences.** The ACA one floor program which can be taught in as little as 12 -14 weeks would fit many of the changing life styles..

We Can No Longer Ignore the Facts

The facts are that the number of dancers is dwindling, there are very few new callers, attendance at our events is way down.

Shortening the instruction time for New Dancers seems to be the approach that clubs throughout the square dance world are now experimenting with. They are trying to find ways to keep both the Mainstream and New Dancers happy and to fill up our square dance floors again.

To the clubs who are trying new approaches rather than being stuck in the past - we wish you well and hope you will share your results and suggestions with us all.



REGION 5 DANCE SCHEDULE 2015

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

WHEN	WHERE	EVENT	CALLERS/ CUERS
Feb. 9, 2015	Prince George	Valentine's Day Dance	Gys Koops
Feb. 12, 2015	Vanderhoof	Valentine's Day Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Feb. 16, 2015	Lac La Hache	Caribooter's Valentine Dance	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Feb. 22, 2015	South Cariboo	My Tie Dance at the Greens	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Feb. 23, 2015	Prince George	50s and 60s Dance	Gys Koops
Mar. 7, 2015	Williams Lake	March Merriment & Pie Night Dance	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Mar. 12, 2015	Vanderhoof	St. Paddy's Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Mar. 16, 2015	Prince George	St. Patrick's Potluck and Dance	Gys Koops
Mar. 16, 2015	Lac La Hache	St. Patrick's Day Dance Party	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Mar. 30, 2015	Prince George	Goofer's Night	Goofer Callers
Apr. 10, 2015	Vanderhoof	12th Birthday Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Apr. 27, 2015	Lac La Hache	Thank God It's Spring Dance	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
May 22-24, 2015	Williams Lake	57th Jamboree -Jolly Olde England Theme	Dustin McGifford, Nick and Mary Anne Turner
June 5-7, 2015	Prince George	Spring Jamboree Weekend	Jerry Jestin
August 5-8, 2015	Pentiction	12th Peachfest Jamboree	Many Callers & Cuers

For more copies of the Cariboo

Connection, go to the R5CCDA website

at www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca

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dplume@telus.net

For information on dancing around the province, remember to use the website provided by the BC Square and Round Dance Federation

www.squaredance.bc.ca

or call the InfoLine at
1-800-335-9433

To contact the editors, email us at
nmtturner@telus.net



Deadline date for submitting to the next Cariboo Connection is March 22, 2015