



Attention - All Club Presidents ! A Response is Requested

Region 5 is entitled to send 4 delegates to the BC Federation Board of Directors' Meeting each year. They will vote on issues that arise and represent our interests. The meeting this year will be in Abbotsford on April 7, 2018.

Our 4 volunteer delegates are

Bill and Jan Cave (Kersely),

billcave@goldcity.net

Dana Ball (Williams Lake), dball@telus.net
and Karen Piffko (Williams Lake).

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 does your club have?
- 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. If you have anything you wish brought up at this meeting please let your Delegates know ASAP, so that they can ask for it to be put on the meeting Agenda.

The club reports are due in soon so please don't delay. Our delegates should receive an email from each club. Send them to Dana at dball@telus.net Put "**Report for BOD**" in the subject line of your email.

A Square Dancer to the Rescue !

by Anne Christie

On Wednesday, November 29th, one of our Whirlaway square dancers bravely stepped in and stopped a bank robbery at CIBC in Williams Lake!

Bill Drebit was just finishing up his transaction with a teller when a man wearing a scarf over his face barged in and robbed another teller, then approached his teller and demanded she hand over all her money.

With Bill's wallet lying open on the counter he was motivated to act, and after quickly noticing that both of the man's hands were visible with no weapon in sight, he grabbed the scarf off the man's face so the security cameras would be able to ID him. He then threw his arm around his neck and wrestled him down to the floor.

Luckily another customer came over quickly to help hold the suspect down until the RCMP arrived and arrested him.



Bill and the other customer, **Blaine Grinder**, were later officially recognized with Certificates of Appreciation from both the city and the RCMP for their role in detaining the suspect.

Way to go, Bill !

Thought from a Delegate by Dana Ball

Wow! What a year this has been since I agreed to be a delegate for Region 5.

When I became President of the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways I began to realize just how much work our Callers and Cuers do just so we can dance and socialize once a week.

When I agreed to be a delegate for Region 5, I was handed an extensive amount of notes and minutes that **Bill Rose** had kept. Now I wondered what I had got myself into. After reading some of the notes I realized just how much work and time the Regional and BC Federation Executive do just to keep us dancing and having fun. I quickly learned most of the Executives are also Callers and Cuers !!!

I really enjoyed last year's Board meeting in Abbotsford and realized how much Mary Anne Turner did to prepare us, the four new delegates, for that meeting. It was good to know **Bill and Jan Cave** were there, too, as they are so knowledgeable about associations and computers. Karen is a great report writer and socializer. Between us we hope to be good representatives for Region 5.

As mentioned on the front page, I am hoping you will send your Reports for the Board of Directors meeting this year to me, Dana Ball, at **dball@telus.net**

Being a recent newcomer to Square Dancing, I really enjoyed meeting new dancers and renewing acquaintances in Abbotsford and at Prince George's Jamboree last year and look forward to seeing all of you again this year.

Caller Workshops - by Nick Turner

Callers from Vanderhoof, Prince George, Kersley and Williams Lake have started to meet every so often in Quesnel to learn from each other and improve calling skills. They also learn more about digital music delivery and sources. Unfortunately we all live great distances apart and winter driving factors greatly in how often we meet.

Some of the Region's callers have been calling for many years and some are very new to the game. It is vital for the future of our clubs that we have new callers coming along, so our present club callers are urged to give the less experienced ones as much practice as possible on club nights. Dancers are urged to be patient and encouraging with those learning this very difficult craft. The only real place a new caller can get experience is at the club dance. Is one Tip during the evening too much to ask for?

Yikes ! Calling is not for the Faint of Heart

Did you know that a caller must make **8-10 decisions every 2-3 seconds**. According to American caller Ed Foote, these decisions include:

1. Knowing **how long** it will take the dancers to do a call, so as to know when to give the next call.
2. Knowing what **formation** the named call will give.
3. Knowing if this call will **flow smoothly** after the preceding call.
4. Knowing what the next call should be from a variety of options.
5. **Deciding the correct timing** for this particular call, based on whether the floor is weak, average, or strong.
6. Knowing if the next call is '**on the list**' for the advertised program for the dance.
7. Giving the calls **on the beat** with the music.
8. Knowing **who the partners & corners are** in multiple squares.
9. Knowing **how to resolve** to a left allemande and remembering which resolves have been used before so as to avoid repetition.
10. Knowing **where 'home' is** if the caller wishes to use an 'at home' resolve."

And while making all of these split-second decisions, the caller must continually strive to ensure the dancers are enjoying themselves.

We should be thankful for our callers who are willing to take on this momentous task !

REGION REFLECTIONS

Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways by Anne Christie

Marie and Mike Gibbons travelled to the Nashville, Tennessee area this fall and enjoyed touring the caverns, taking in concerts and were lucky to happen upon a wonderful youth fiddlers performance.

For our Halloween Party on October 26th there was an eclectic turnout of vampires, old fashioned gents and ladies, a bull fighter and flamenco dancer, a gypsy, a cowgirl, a Hawaiian lady and even Phyllis Diller! We had enough for 3 squares with **Nick and Bill Cave** providing appropriately themed music, and we munched on ghost finger cookies and Halloween cakes and candies.

We were delighted to welcome back a guest dancer this fall, **Darlene Simms** from Swan River, Manitoba. She drops in for a dance when in town to visit her son and daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Ordell and Kathy Steen enjoyed a pre-Christmas trip to Ottawa. They toured the museums and Kathy, who is an artist, was especially interested in visiting the art galleries.

At our Christmas Party on December 9th there was so much turkey, salads, vegetables, and desserts that we could have fed twice as many people. It was delicious, thanks to all the great cooks! We had three squares and the colorful Christmas outfits

brightened up the room. Nick and Mary Anne did two wonderful duets, and Mary Anne even did some of the calling.

We were happy that our young dancers **Ellie Rosario, along with her brother Joel and Kailee Buhrke** were able to dance with us in the New Year. Ellie is now back in Saskatchewan, for her second school term. We miss you Ellie, but are glad that you are enjoying school!

Our **March Merriment Dance** is coming up soon on Saturday, March 3rd. This is a fun event with lots of dancing and eating. There has been a change this year, however. There will be a variety of other delicious goodies available as well as pies. The dance will be followed by a competitive, but good-natured auction for the remaining pies and goodies. It is a great cause with all proceeds going to the Child Development Center. See the poster below for more details.

It's time for..... **March Merriment** **Saturday March 3, 2018**

...with the Stampede Whirlaways


Child Development Center - 690 North 2nd Avenue - Williams Lake

Dance **7:00 P.M. Pre-Rounds - Mary Anne Turner**
7:30 P.M. Mainstream Dance - Nick Turner
\$8.00 each (Charity Fund Raiser Night)

Eat **After the dance, enjoy delicious treats**

Join in the auction fun !

This is your chance to buy some special treats to take home. Proceeds will be used to support the Child Development Center

Dana 250-392-3066 dball@telus.net
Kae 250-392-7179



Williams Lake is having a special dance weekend in May. We hope that some of you will join us to.....

...Honour Nick Turner for his **40 years** of calling for the Stampede Whirlaways

...Help the Whirlaways as they celebrate their 60th anniversary.



Great dancing! Great food!
Special entertainment!

Williams Lake
May 25-27, 2018

Stampede Whirlaways 60th Anniversary

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p style="text-align: center;">Join Us In Congratulating Nick Turner For 40 Years Of Calling For The Stampede Whirlaways</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 PM Pre-Rounds 8:00 PM Mainstream Dancing \$8.00 Each</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Caller: NICK TURNER Cuer: MARY ANNE TURNER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Help Williams Lake Celebrate their 60th Anniversary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15 - 11:45 AM Round Dance Social Phase II - \$6:00 each</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30 PM Delicious Treats and Mainstream Fun Caller : Dustin McGifford \$8.00 each</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM Supper & Presentations \$16.00 each</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 PM Pre-rounds followed by a Mainstream Dance \$10.00 each</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Caller: DUSTIN MCGIFFORD Cuer: MARY ANNE TURNER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weekend Package \$45.00 each</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Enjoy a continental breakfast and casual dancing before departing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$6.00 each</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 - 10:00 AM Breakfast is Served</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 - 11:00 AM Mainstream Dancing</p> <div style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p>GUEST CALLERS AND CUERS Welcome</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">LOCATION: The Long House</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">At intersection of Hwy 97 and Hwy 20, turn on to Hwy 20.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Take first exit right on to Mackenzie Ave. Turn right on to 7th Avenue and go up the hill. Turn right on Pinchbeck St.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Go almost to end of street. The hall driveway will be on your left.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Dana 250-392-3066 dball@telus.net</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Circus Theme this year because.....Square Dancing is the Greatest Show on Earth.....Right? (Let us know you are coming, if you can.)</p>		

Are You 'Shaky' on Wheel Around?

Wheel around is defined as: A couple, working as a unit turns around (180°). **The left hand dancer backs up while the right hand dancer moves forward.** The pivot point is the handhold between the two dancers. This move is most often used while couples are promenading, however it can be danced by couples (facing or not), and from lines (facing or not). The action of the move results in the couple facing the opposite direction, as does Courtesy Turn, California Twirl, and Partner Trade.

So why even have Wheel Around? The differences are that (1) both Courtesy Turn and California Twirl are done by 'normal couples' (boy-left, girl-right), whereas Wheel Around can be danced by any 'couple', and (2) with Wheel Around, the flow of the right-hand dancer for follow-up moves such as Flutterwheel or Dixie Style to a Wave is enhanced over that of Partner Trade.

Vanderhoof Drifting Squares by Sandi Jespersen

December started with **Sandi Jespersen** celebrating her 65th birthday at the United Church Hall. Very few in attendance but nice company.

Dancing has been a full square most of the time.... occasionally an extra dancer or two. I am thankful for those that make the effort to get out and support our club. We always have a good time. The flu hit us at the end of December but it seems to have slowed down its influence on our attendance. We did dance to called records once in December and it is good sometimes to hear someone else's voice and sharpen our listening skills. **Dolores Young** has been a big support to the group, sometimes taking on the entire evening when I am unable to do it. She does well and we're moving right along.

Our Christmas dance was fun with great food. Dolores was ill (so there wasn't any turkey...boo hoo!) Gys and I did fine and the dancers enjoyed basic calls and some patter. For a "half time show" **Doreen Menu and Lorna Beatty** showed off their polka skills. They danced well and seem to enjoy themselves a great deal. Thanks ladies! Some of our dancers headed into PG and danced at their Christmas dance. I've heard from them that I should have been there.

We began January with our annual "Hat Dance" reminding us of the New Year's hats that some of us have worn in the past. Great hats and one full square.

A reminder was put out that when the temperature dips below -25C at 4pm, I telephone Gys and he does not travel and we don't dance. Many people come from a distance and I wouldn't want them to get caught out on the roads in brutal temps.

We did cancel our dance on the 11th, and as it turned out we might not have had a square anyway. We no longer have New Dancers this year, so we have concentrated on firming up the moves in the last part of the list for Mainstream. Dolores introduced/reviewed "Grand Parade" and the group was very successful with that one.

Heather Stephens (New Dancer last year) has had her share of family issues. Her uncle and brother both died within 2 weeks and when she went to her

brother's funeral, her mother wasn't doing well. This past three weeks she has been in Sechelt caring for her mother-in-law, trying to find care for her at home. We wish her a long rest when she returns.

Fun dances and potlucks coming up:

Feb 15: potluck and Valentine's dance. Wear red/white/pink and bring your favourite dish.

March 22nd: potluck and St. Patty's dance. Wear green/orange/white and bring your favourite dish.

April 12th: potluck and our 15th Birthday party. Wear fancy square dance dress up clothes and bring your favourite dish.

May 10th: Potluck and last dance of the 17/18 dance year. Potluck and summer time dance. Dress casual and bring your favourite dish.

.....and looking forward to the Prince George Jamboree and the Williams Lake Jamboree too.

Mile Zero Grand Squares (Dawson Creek) by Jean & Bernie Smith

We started dancing on the last Monday in September. About twelve dancers showed up, several of our dancers are farmers and they were still busy in the fields.

It has now grown to three squares on most nights. The family of eight children have returned to dance with us, plus six new dancers joined us after the new year.

We had a potluck Christmas supper followed by square dancing until nine o'clock. Then everyone joined in a Chinese white elephant gift exchange, fun was had by all.

The evening ended with a delicious lunch that was brought by all the ladies. Then a two week break was taken as there were several people were going away to be with their families..

Prince George Northern Twisters by Julie Skead

So excellent....this season is bringing us 4 to 5 squares of Beginners, Mainstream and Plus dancers, as well as beginners and experienced Round dancers.

THANKS always to those who help with chairs, snacks, coffee, and hall clean up every Monday, and to the members who shop, man the kitchen, plan and do decorating, and prepare food for our 'special' dances. Thanks to **Gys Koops**, with **Dolores Young**, **Yolanda Van Dyk**, and **Maurice Mingay** jumping in to call now and then. **Gary Dean's** experience and knowledge are valuable to the club, for round dance waltz and 2-step cueing. We appreciate our Executive and the dancers who support the club.. Also.....thumbs up to the skilled ladies who jump in to take the gentleman's part when it's needed.

In October, **Jolanda** and **Dolores** attended a workshop for callers that **Nick Turner** organized. They met in Quesnel with people traveling from Williams Lake, Kersley, Vanderhoof and Prince George. In the morning the callers exchanged ideas and questions. In the afternoon, they practised their calling skills. Dancer volunteers made up a square so that the callers could practise.

For our Hallowe'en theme night, 5 squares were on the floor. There were prizes, lots of treats, and almost everyone was in costumes or in orange and black. **Gys** had chosen special music, and **Jolanda V.** in her beautiful voice, contributed two singing calls - 'monster' numbers. It was great to welcome guest, **Gena F.**, who has moved back from the Kelowna area and has joined us as an experienced dancer.

Our November Snowflake supper and dance brought out dancers, and guests from Hixon, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James....most in theme colors. Our new dancers joined us for the supper. **Susan** and other volunteers added decorations and table 'attire' in white and soft blues to make our evening even more special. **Cathy H.'s** hearty home made soup warmed our souls.

We welcomed back, guest caller, **Merv Meyer**, and cuer, **Sandy Gregson-Meyer**, from Kamloops, and friends who came from Kamloops. The 3 squares who took part in the workshop portion of the event appreciated square dance coaching including singing call duets, and the Round Dance part with a 'feel good' Latin flavor (Rhumba, Cha). Merv has been calling since 2000, Sandy cueing 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 and skill levels. We had the opportunity to shop for square dance clothing....a display set up by the Meyers and friends.

Julie, Don & Gena



Over 50 dancers enjoyed our Christmas Dinner and Dance (including what has become a tradition, 'Dirt Cake' thanks to dancers **Pearl and Kevin**). Beginner square dancers had their first opportunity to try a full dance of Mainstream calling.

Our January Robbie Burns workshop, supper, and dance brought to us well known caller / cuer **Heather (Wallace) Reynolds**, from Abbotsford. She learned to square dance at age 7. Her early calling mentor was **Steve Edlund** with the Burnaby club, and later, **Chris Knowles**, **Bill Knowles**, **Ray Brendzy**, **Dennis Dixon**, and **Dan Adams Sr.** She began Round Dance cueing with youth dancers, receiving support from cuers **Bette Berglund**, **Marg Beatty**, **Danielle Garbe**, **Brian Penny**, and **Alison Hampton**. At 14 she was able to fill in for callers / cuers at clubs in the Vancouver area.

Other support came from **Ken and Sally Crisp**.

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(Continued from page 6)

Heather went on to become full time caller in Mission, and now Abbotsford. Her singing voice and sense of humor are a bonus!

Susan and team brought out the table decorations and classy plaid banners to set the mood. Bagpipes (**Ian McInnes**) brought in the haggis to accompany our roast beef and a traditional ode was read. Many dancers sported plaid to show spirit for the occasion.

Outside of the dance world, **Maurice M., Gervin H., and Ray L.** continue to sing with the 10th Avenue Seniors' 'Forever Young' choir. Their annual Christmas performance was sold out.

I (**Julie**) took a driving holiday to the lower mainland and Vancouver Island with my 11 year old granddaughter. We had no snow in P George but went through 120 k of mesmerizing swirling snow around Williams Lake! We enjoyed the visit with, and the studio of, family artist **Marilyn Hunt** and, get this - a heart warming thrill to see **Mrs. Dyke** in White Rock, my healthy and alert Grade 1 teacher from 1952!

In Victoria we experienced the BC Parliament Buildings... the House in session, Miniature World adjacent to the Empress Hotel, and an IMAX Theater show at the Royal BC Museum. (For all this we were at a hostel, a 10 minute walk away and I believe, also a valuable experience for my granddaughter.) We dropped in on a couple from my high school years and touched base with a fellow student from early 60's UVIC days. We walked on the beach and breakwater in the sun, and lunch overlooking the ocean topped things off.

Other dancers (no details) spent relaxing holidays in Mexico, Arizona, Alberta, the Kootenays, the Okanagan, Vancouver Island, and the lower mainland.

*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.



The Okanagan Square & Round Dance Association
presents

CUER'S SEMINAR

Clinicians – **Peter & Stella Tennant**

With over 20 years of experience.

Sharing their treasure of knowledge.



Are you a Round Dance Cuer or Teacher?

Do you want to learn to Cue or Teach?

Are you a dancer interested in what goes on behind the microphone?

Then come to Vernon, B.C.

May 18, 19 & 20, 2018

Topics may include:



- Round-A-Lab Membership & Socan Licensing
- Stage Presence & Cueing: microphone usage, dress code, etiquette.
- Business Side of Cueing: ie. fees, expenses, income tax, etc.
- Programming: club nights, party nights, weekend events
- Teaching techniques: figures vs hash cues vs dances
- Reading Choreography
- Choreographing Dances
- And more.

CUER: \$50 before April 15, 2018
\$60 after April 15, 2018

CUER COUPLE: \$70 before April 15, 2018
\$80 after April 15, 2018

Fees include: All sessions, Saturday Lunch, Saturday Night Dance (Panel of Cuers)

Halina Senior's Centre
3310 37th Avenue, Vernon, B.C.

Registration Form for Cuers' Seminar available at http://www.region3.squaredance.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018_05_18_OSRDACuerSeminarRegistration.pdf

I'm not under any illusion that square dancing can solve the world's problems. But in a society with so many forces attempting to divide us, a dance that literally unites us surely can't hurt.

Quote from Gabriel Popkin a Washington Caller

2018 -NATIONAL

2019 -BC PROVINCIAL

CONVENTION 2018

London, Ontario, Canada
July 19, 20, 21, 2018

Make The Scene In 2018



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12 Anne Marie Crescent, Kincardine, ON N2Z 2M9



20TH Canadian National Square & Round Dance Convention

Dancing's Fine in Region Nine! Live Lively -
Square Dance Mainstream to A2
Round Dance Phase II - V
Clogging, Contra & Line 

July 11 - 13
Salmon Arm, BC

For More Information:
Jean Wood - jwood@wellroundedssquare.com 250-833-9227
Bill Morey - wh_morey@telus.net 250-462-5217
*Information Subject to Change

www.bcfestival2019.com
Toll-free in BC
1-800-335-9433



**BC FESTIVAL
2019**

BC Square & Round Dance Federation
Thompson-Shuswap & Okanagan
Square & Round Dance
Associations



SALMON ARM '19
BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA



Co-hosted by Region 3,
The Okanagan Square
& Round Dance Assn.

2020 -NATIONAL

Report from Festival 2020 July 29-Aug. 1, 2020

by Norm Cox, Past President BCS&RDF

We have been given the green light by the Canadian Society to advertise the **National 2020 Festival in B.C.** and then on April 1st, 2018 we can go world wide with our publicity.

The clock is now running and a website for the Festival has been started. The Website address for Festival 2020 is squaredance.bc.ca/2020

At this web address there will be a Registration Form plus a Promotion Page.

The Surrey /Guildford Sheraton Hotel will only take reservations one year ahead so it cannot be booked until July 2019. It is a lovely hotel with the Convention Centre as part of it. We will have Hotel info at a later date on the web page.

Now if you are going to London for the 2018 Festival we could use some help in promoting 2020 at the Registration Table. Contact June Fitchet at difgag@gmail.com with your offer.

Bits n' Pieces

AS WE GET OLDER! by Nick Turner

Age does indeed creep up on us. The changes to our bodies are so subtle at first that we barely notice them. Once past seventy (average age for some of the Square Dance clubs in our Region) we find we can't move quite as fast as we used to, nor do we react to a call quite as quickly as we used to. We can't turn or twist or even walk or swing quite as smoothly as we'd like to.

Older shoulders dislike Box the Gnat, California Twirl and even Star Thru. Older hips dislike two Courtesy Turns in a row. Rollaways and other calls can cause dizziness.

Mainstream singing call figures sometimes seem to have too many moves in them and too little time to do them.

Also contributing to these problems is the fact that callers often do not dance enough themselves and so they don't experience or appreciate many of the difficulties dancers experience.

Sometimes callers accidentally contribute to these problems with poor choreography that results in awkward body flow or they call like a 'bat out of hell.'

There are many ways in which callers can help this situation, however.

They can avoid over-use of some of the figures that are difficult for aging bodies.

They can leave out a call or two in the figure - most notably Do Sa Do (Square Through Four, Do Sa Do) so that dancers have more time to complete the moves.

They can slow their music down enough to allow dancers to move at a comfortable pace. Dancing with 'the wind in your face' doesn't mean a hundred meter dash! Smooth and continuous movement at a comfortable pace is the secret.

Another Idea to Add Fun to a Club Night

Samena Squares Club of Seattle held a Chinese New Year's Dance one year.

As the dancers entered, they were sent to a table with a chart that showed in which Chinese year they were born. This year, for instance, is the Year of the Dog.

Each dancer was asked to grab a sticker that matched their appropriate birth year and to fasten that sticker on their club badge. Then, one tip later in the evening, they had to find at least a partner, and hopefully a whole square of others with the same animal sticker. For example, one square had six dogs and two dragons,

This year (2018) Chinese New Year is on Friday, the 16th of February.



Recent years of the Dog are: 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018

Lucky Signs for People Born in Dog Year:

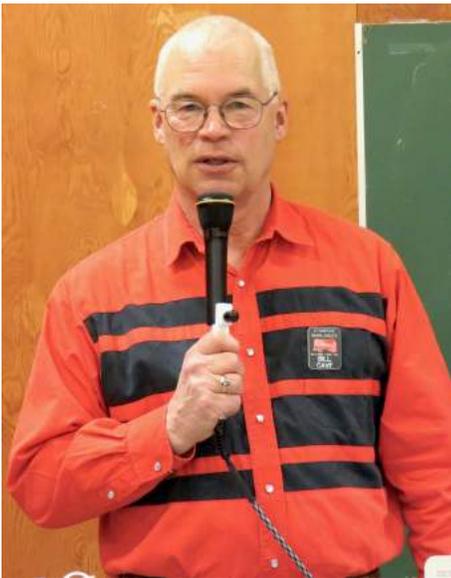
Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 9

Lucky Colors: green, red, purple

Lucky Flowers: rose, oncidium, cymbidium orchids

Lucky Directions: east, southeast, south

Learning to Call by Bill Cave
Or, why did the dancers cross the square?



For me, learning to call has opened a whole new world of understanding, enjoyment and interest in square dancing. Through the course of this journey one learns about modules, figures, singers, music, patter and hoedowns, and the

application of new software, microphones, amplifiers and speakers.

Some of these things I might have had experience with but about many I didn't have a clue. I also came to appreciate the time (and money) a dedicated caller puts into their commitment to square dancing.

My experience began about a year and a half ago with a "Goofer's Night" at our club in Williams Lake where members were encouraged to prepare and deliver a singing call for one of the evening's tips. I guess I did okay because I got lots of positive feedback and encouragement to try some more. So I did...

First off there's lots of study: reading articles, information from websites, Facebook pages and Blogs; learning definitions of the calls explaining exactly what the dancers are expected to do and where they'll end up and how many beats or steps each move will take.

One is also introduced to the many sources of music primarily from websites dedicated to providing links to music for purchase (prices range from \$5.00 to \$9.00 US for a song you can download in MP3 format although taking time in the iTunes Store can yield a few instrumentals at a lower cost to use for hoedowns).

I learned that many of the figures included in these purchases were the same or very similar, so quickly one becomes challenged to change them to provide variety for the dancers.

Now this may seem simple but, changing figures means you must replace them with other dance calls which add up to the same number of beats or steps that were required for the figure you are replacing... another hurdle to get over. But this becomes a labour of love when the "Singer" goes well and the dancers enjoy themselves. Lots of personal satisfaction when the outcome is favourable.

I'll leave all the "techie" stuff largely unremarked but, suffice to say, you will eventually need your own microphone to start (that way you get to keep your own germs to yourself! ...lol) and then must purchase or have the loan of an amplifier with microphone and music inputs and mixers along with a good set of speakers (some folks who work with records will also want a turntable to put into the mix. I went straight to MP3s exclusively; the best route in the long run I think).

The biggest challenge I have found is learning to call "Patter" for hoedowns. As this normally forms the first part of every tip, it requires lots of practice and consideration. One should be prepared to learn a series of "modules" (a collection of calls that fit together to move the dancers comfortably around the floor to desired outcomes) and eventually commit them to memory for ease of calling and flexibility of options which ultimately adds up to pleasing variety for the dancers in the choreography they experience.

The primary flow pattern is called the "Chicken Plucker" a configuration from which many dance sequences commence. It provides the caller with the opportunity to move the dancers back and forth across the square and is the starting and or end point for many different figures, get-outs and resolutions.

It takes time, patience and commitment but, eventually it all starts to come together and bit-by-bit it gets easier and the experience for the dancers continues to improve.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

One's ultimate goal as a caller is, I believe, to provide an enjoyable experience for the dancers. I must say our club has been wonderfully supportive throughout my learning and practice (which still has a long way to go). They have put up with some amazing confusions and boo-boos I have attempted to dance them through and have provided me with lots of positive reinforcement when they've enjoyed one of my tips.

One other thing I haven't yet mentioned is the desirability of having a good coach to assist in all of this learning. One with endless patience, good humour and a willingness to guide the new caller and sometimes push a bit when appropriate as the novice ventures along the path of learning. I've been blessed with such and can't complete this article without thanking **Nick Turner** for his good advice and boundless patience and the many hours he's dedicated to helping me become a caller.

I hope that I can repay him in some small measure by becoming a creditable caller... given time! I think I'm now about ready to dive into the deep end of the pool, which Nick will be pleased to hear.

Finally, I return to the subtitle for this article now that you've heard about the Chicken Plucker: "Why did the dancers cross the square?"

The answer is, "Because the caller wanted them to get to the other side!"

Should We All Try to "Lug A Mug?"

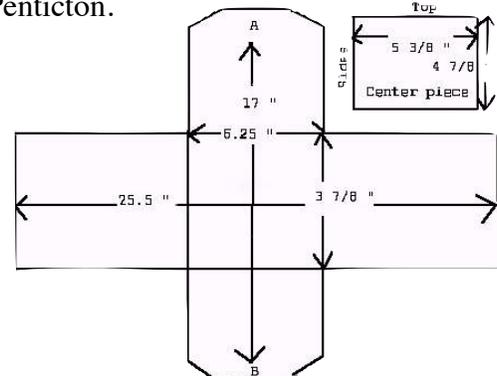
Before Christmas, one of our dancers (**Ellen Wiede**) reminded me that in days gone by most of us carried our reusable mugs to square dancing in a quilted bag. The use of these reusable mugs greatly cut down on the number of paper or styrofoam cups that we contributed to the landfill after each evening.

Over the years, many of us seem to have gotten away from this practice for one reason or another.

If you would like to return to this practice, you might be interested to know that there is a pattern and instructions for making a 2 cup mug bag posted on the BCS&RDF web page at

<http://www.squaredance.bc.ca/sewing/two-mug-bag>

It was contributed by Lois MacKay of Penticton.



SOME BEDTIME READING

For those who are interested in the history of Square Dancing, here are a couple of books that come highly recommended: (For more details Google the authors)

Step by Step Through Modern Square Dance History

Available from the author, Jim Mayo,
P.O. Box 367 Hampstead, New Hampshire, USA
03841
\$17.50 paperback \$28.50 hardcover

As I Saw It by Paul Moore.

This is the story of Bob Osgood founder of Callerlab and Editor of the Square Dance publication Sets in Order Square Dancing.

\$11.24 Kindle \$24.95 paperback

If you ever come across the square dance magazines, **Sets in Order / Square Dancing** or **American Square Dance**, pick them up. They hold a fascinating kaleidoscope of our activity from the 1950s to today.

Google: **Northeast Square Dancer** - lots of online reading from the American Northeastern area.



REGION 5 DANCE SCHEDULE 2017/2018

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



WHEN	WHERE	EVENT	CALLERS/ CUERS
Feb. 12, 2018	Prince George	Valentine's Day Dance	Panel
Feb. 15, 2018	Vanderhoof	Potluck Valentine's Dance	Sandi, Dolores
Feb. 26, 2018	Prince George	Theme Night - 50s and 60s	Panel
Mar. 3, 2018	Williams Lake	March Merriment Dance & Dessert Auction	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Mar. 12, 2018	Prince George	St. Patrick's Dinner and Dance	Panel
Mar. 22, 2018	Vanderhoof	St. Paddy's Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Apr. 9, 2018	Prince George	Goofer's Night	Panel
Apr. 12, 2018	Vanderhoof	Club's 15th Birthday	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
May 4-5, 2018	Prince George	61st Spring Jamboree Weekend	Murray Few calling and cueing
May 25-27, 2018	Williams Lake	60th Anniversary Jamboree -Under the Big Top theme	Dustin McGifford, Nick and Mary Anne Turner
July 19-21, 2018	London, Ontario	Canadian National Festival 2018	Many Callers & Cuers

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If you wish to submit an article to the Cariboo Connection, contact us at nmtturner@telus.net The deadline date for the April issue is **March 20, 2018.**

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Smile of the Day

Did you hear that a Caribou broke into the Canadian Mint?

Yes, he was quickly drawn and quartered !

