2 0 2 0 W I N T E R E D I T I O N



## The CARIBOO CONNECTION

ISSUE # 62

EDITORS: MARY ANNE & NICK TURNER

WINTER CHAOS IN THE B.C. SQUARE DANCE WORLD - (But at least we weren't in Newfoundland!)



Cold weather from January 11 - January 19, 2020 played havoc with the Square Dancing schedule in the Cariboo and North. Throughout our dance region the temperatures ranged from -35°C to over -40°C at night and each club wisely chose to cancel one or more of their scheduled dance events. It just wasn't sensible to have our valued dancers out in the dark of night at temperatures such as those. In addition to the temperatures, the snowy and icy roads added further complications to travel.

We didn't hear from every area but we know that ours was not the only dance region to struggle. Although not hit with the cold temperatures, the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island suffered through severe winds, snow, whiteout conditions and extremely icy roads. This caused many dance cancellations in these areas also.

Throughout the province, dancers and callers coped with the winter conditions in a variety of ways. For busy caller, **Steve Edlund** from Surrey, the cancelled dances meant he could stay home and bake bread (oatmeal molasses and white) and watch football and hockey.

For dancer **Jordi Guri** (Williams Lake) a burst sprinkler pipe in his apartment complex meant evacuation to a motel due to flooding in his unit.

Caller/Cuer, **Dolores Young** (Vanderhoof), emailed to say that she had not stirred from the house for a week except to visit the wood pile over and over and over.

For Caller/Cuer couple **Nick and Mary Anne Turner** (Williams Lake) it meant taking special care

of the birds in their back yard - chunky peanut butter by the gallon for the chickadees and Steller's Jays, suet for the Flicker and trying to tempt a Varied Thrush, puffed up to the size of softball, to eat anything. Of course, our 'pet' squirrel got his share of chopped pecans, peanut butter - stolen from the bird feeder - and whole peanuts. All the fauna appreciated the heated waterer.

Happily, things have improved for now and some clubs are trying to figure out how to reschedule some of the more important dance events that they missed. One club on Vancouver Island had to cancel their Robbie Burns Dance on January 17th and was hoping to reschedule it to February 7th. Unfortunately the new date is when they planned to hold their Chinese New Year dance (Year of the Rat).

Creative minds are trying to think of ways they might combine the 2 dance themes. It will be fun to hear what they came up with. One suggestion floating around was that dancers could come dressed as rats wearing tartan hats. Or perhaps the address to the haggis could be in Chinese and followed by a Chinese lion dance. LOL!



### REGION REFLECTIONS

Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways News by Anne Christie

**Ray Coupe** and I drove all the way north to Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Ocean this summer, and on the way stopped at the Midway Music Festival at Midway Lake on the Dempster Highway.

In the evening we enjoyed watching a jigging competition, where couples performed in their colorful beaded moccasins for cash prizes.

Later on, couples filled the big outdoor dance floor for a long and very energetic square dance set. It was similar to square dances we attended in Prince Edward Island, with 34 couples in a big circle, and most of them jigging for the entire 30 minutes without stop while they executed the square dance moves.



The Stampede Whirlaways Club was happy to have a number of young dancers joining us this fall. They bring so much energy and fun to the evenings, and have been very quick to learn the dance moves.

One of the young

dancers is an exchange student from Munich, Germany. (See an article written by her on page 6.) We were delighted to have this lovely young lady attend as she brought a very positive attitude and a bright smile, and quickly picked up the new steps. It was a pleasure to get to know you **Leoni!** She hopes to pursue square dancing back in Germany.

Halloween fell on our regular Thursday night dance evening this year, so we celebrated with themed music and goodies including witch fingers, and a big spider web decorated brownie. There were flamenco dancers, a pirate, the Lone Ranger, a sailor and a delightful pair of scarecrows.

Our Christmas Party on December 12<sup>th</sup> was a fun evening with three squares dancing, and the ladies in their colorful Christmas skirts.

We were happy to welcome back **Joel and Kailee**, a favourite young couple who are only able to attend when Joel is back from working on out-of-town fencing contracts. **Glen Davidson** won the door prize this year, and **Ray** and **Maggie**, and **Jordi** and **Andrew** drew the red poker chips to compete on the Christmas song title quiz.



**Nick** and **Mary Anne** entertained with their usual Christmas duet, and Mary Anne organized a fun Christmas in Killarney Mixer Dance.

Nick called a set where the men had to dance with their hands in their pockets.

Mary Anne, Nick and Bill Cave all took the time to prepare wonderfully themed seasonal music, and the special appetizers and desserts were abundant and delicious



The Stampede Whirlaways offered congratulations to club members, **Ellie and Kyle**, who were married on December 28<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful winter wedding with bridesmaids in deep green, groomsmen in red shirts, snowflake decorations and a winter scene cake, and of course a lovely bride and handsome groom.

The bride and groom's talented family members and friends performed many musical sets, both during the ceremony and at the reception, including Ellie's siblings and club members **Maggie** on the piano and vocals, and **Noah** on cello. Kyle's sister and several of her friends composed and sang an original song for the couple.

Ellie and Kyle really wowed with their first dance with elaborate spins and twirls and even a daring flip, and a layout to end. They then joined friends on stage in a band and provided lively dance music with Ellie on fiddle and Kyle on percussion. The Club extends all our very best wishes to this much loved young couple!

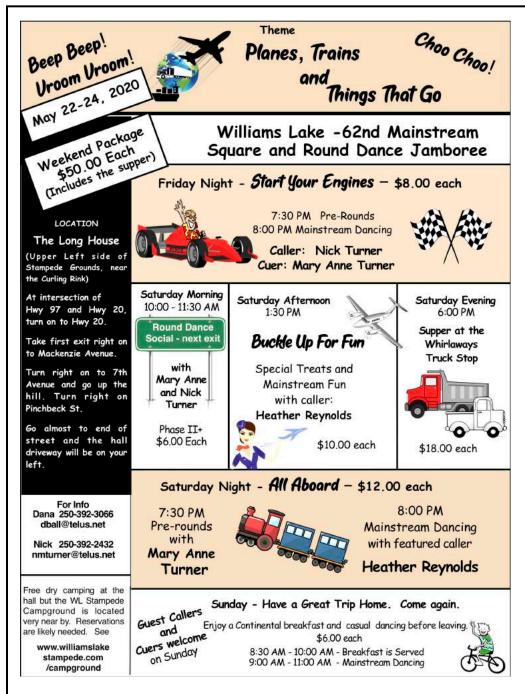
# Come one, Come All to the. 21st Canadian National Square & Round Dance Festival 2020

This festival is to be held in Surrey in 2020 July 30, 31, and Aug. 1.

Register now for Festival fun.. For information and registration forms, check out the convention website a

http://squaredance.bc.ca/2020

Or call Toll Free 1-800-335-9433



Come to Williams Lake for their 62nd Mainstream Jamboree.



The theme this year is "Planes, Trains and Things That Go."

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

There are several hotel/motels in the area but the manager of the **Super 8** has offered a special rate to square dancers of \$69.95+ tax per night for single or double occupancy.

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.** 

Or you could email them at <a href="mailto:super8wl@shawcable.com">super8wl@shawcable.com</a>

Mention that you are square dancers and would like to accept the rate offered to dancers. We hope you will join us for this weekend. **Great Dancing! Great food! Great Fun!** 

#### Thoughts from the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways President by Dana Ball

The Holidays and the worst of winter is over and it's great to be back in the "swing" of dancing. We are really enjoying our New Dancers. They seem to be learning the Mainstream calls faster than some of us regulars are remembering them.

This year we started our New Dancers earlier than Mainstream. We scheduled them on the same night and in the same location as our club meets. This was a new approach for our club that seemed to work very well.

At first our regular members thought they would be missing several weeks of dancing but most of them showed up as angels. Their attendance made the lessons much more enjoyable for the New Dancers. We lost a few of them due to winter driving conditions but they said they'd be back in the spring.

It was fun having **Leonie Wasner**, an exchange student from Germany, with us. She really loved the Square Dancing and is planning to find a group when she gets home in February.

An interesting gentleman came to one of our new dancer classes. He didn't want to dance even though he paid. He just wanted to watch. It seems he was an auctioneer and really wanted to learn to call, but after observing Nick call several tips, decided it would be easier to stick to auctioneering!!!

Our club had a fun Halloween. It was on a regular dance night, as was our Christmas Party. We had special treats, games and dances and most of the members dressed festively.

We will celebrate Valentines with Strawberry Shortcake and romantic music. March Merriment will be our annual fund raiser for the Child Development Center. We will feast on a variety of homemade goodies and then auction off homemade goodies. Sadly we lost our famous "Banana Cream Pie" baker, her pies usually sold for upwards of \$100.00. We will most likely have Mary Anne's famous Meat Pies though, and they keep the bidding interesting. Check out the poster for this event on page 11.

AS our attention turns to our upcoming Jamboree, I want to tell the Northern Twisters how sorry I am that the cold and road conditions kept several of us from attending their Robbie Burns Night. However, our Travel Agents will be with them when SPRING IS IN THE AIR, to remind everyone to Rev up your Engines, and join us in Williams Lake for "Planes, Trains and Things That Go" on May 22-24, 2020.

We'll do our best to make it a memorable trip!!! See our Jamboree poster on page 4 for the details.

#### Of Interest to Round Dancers

Are you learning to round dance? When you get home after your lesson, do you wish you could review the new steps you learned? Well, if you have internet access, go the the round dance site at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRQ2dqg7lesm2nVEuDowNFA">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRQ2dqg7lesm2nVEuDowNFA</a>

On this site, they do not teach the steps but they show you what the steps should look like. You could watch that pesky fishtail over and over if you wanted.

They cover Two-step, Waltz, Rumba and Cha Cha and there is also a selection of dances that are cued all the way through so you could practise dancing them at home if you have the room. It's not a perfect site but check it out, it might be helpful to you.



#### **Square Dance Fun for an Exchange Student**

My name is Leonie. I'm 15 years old and I am an exchange student from Germany. I came to Williams Lake at the end of August and stayed until the end of January. During my time here I was in grade 10 at Lake City Secondary High School. I really enjoyed my time here in Williams Lake, where I met a lot of friendly people and it was a lifetime experience to live in another country.

One day my aunt and I went for a walk and noticed a poster from the square dance group in Williams Lake. They invited everyone to come to their weekly dance. I had never heard about square dancing before, but I looked it up on YouTube and it seemed like fun. So, I decided to try it out.

I had so much fun learning all the new steps. Besides that, everybody was so friendly and welcoming. I want to say thank you to the whole group. Square dancing was always one of the highlights of my week. The people are simply great and it is fun to dance with them. I will always have fond memories.

#### Lac La Hache Caribooters by Bill Rose

The Lac La Hache Caribooters have not been too active lately as we are having difficulty filling a square. We try to get together at least twice a year for a luncheon to keep up the contacts.

One event that happened on December 15th, 2019 and brought the group together was a luncheon at the Red Rock Grill in 100 Mile House. It was to celebrate **Bill Rose's** 80th birthday, which actually was on December 15th. It was a very enjoyable time visiting with the members from as far away as Clearwater. Hope to have many more such events to attend.





#### Prince George Northern Twisters by Julie Skead

Our longtime caller is **Gys Koops**. The Round Dance group in our club is looking forward to the 2020 start up of Intermediate lessons from **Gary Dean** our Round Dance cuer, and his wife, **Barb**. **Lorne Paulson** continues to coach and keep A1-2 and PLUS dancers on their toes. **Dolores Young** calling / cueing and **Jolanda Van Dyk** calling, get turns alternate Mondays, as well as on Wednesdays at Plus with Lorne Paulson. We admire our hard working Executive (President is **Dolores Young**) as well as those taking on other jobs, e.g., **Emery C., Neil and Susan H.** who catch special moments for us in photos.

Our Hallowe'en special dance was invigorating for 3 squares (Gys Koops with Jolanda and Dolores guest calling, and 10 Round Dancers (2 Step, Waltz, Rumba - Gary Dean cueing), The theme music was fun and peppy. Cool and dapper costumes, and the treats and decorations were a tradition for our club.

Our Snowflake Weekend was enjoyed by regulars and guests. We felt both relaxed and challenged by **Merv Meyer** and **Sandy Gregson-Meyer** from Kamloops, their 13th 'gig' here. They presented duets, combination songs with both Square and Round dancers on the floor, PLUS square dance demos, and Round Dance demos. The round dance demos included a Phase 4 waltz called "Lovely Lough Conn" and also a Jive. There were 3 workshop squares, 4 evening squares and 10 workshop Rounds dancers.

During the weekend, some of us headed for the selection of recycled dance wear that Merv and Sandy had brought from their club, some had come from out-of-town dancers **Penny** and **Dennis Brawn**.

Major kudos to **Glenda M**. for nonstop hands on work and masterminding the crew of volunteers for decorating, other set up, lunch, supper, and clean up. Kudos actually, for the spirit I observed shown by all who were there.

It's always great to see out-of-town guests (Quesnel, Fort St James, Vanderhoof (a whole square), Ashcroft, Penticton.) and retired or/and 'taking needed break' dancers.

Christmas special dance - what a nice idea! Glenda Matthews and Lyn Solmonson making traditional corsages for all the ladies! Didn't we all look snazzy for the occasion, and weren't Darwin and Loretta M. perfect as Santa and Mrs. Claus? There were traditional decorations, door prizes, and lovely table centres that were given later as thank yous for our caller, Gys and wife Lynn, and our cuer Gary and wife Barb. Potluck ham and turkey supper was organized by Glenda.

It warmed our hearts to see retired dancers, first time guests, beginner square dancers **Jim** and **Sharel**, 16 rounds dancers and 4 squares on the floor. In our thoughts, were those who were not well, had other commitments, or were on vacation.

Our Robbie Burns weekend was January 17/18 with Heather Reynolds, caller/cuer from the Fraser Valley Abbotsford Grand Squares with her personality, singing voice and humour. Sheldon Clare piped in the haggis. Retired dancer, Roy Neilson, with full regalia, gave the Address To the Haggis, which was carried by 'Four Score and More' dancers Maurice Mingay and Myrtle Nesbit, and our President, Dolores Young.

Appreciation, Gratitude, and Hope were part of a thoughtful Grace composed and spoken by long time dancers and teachers, **Gary** and **Barb Dean**.

The plaids of the wall hangings and table decorations were accented by theme attire worn by the dancers and Heather.

Those dancers who contributed to our roast beef/ haggis dinner, who helped **Glenda Matthews** with prep and set up/ cleanup, who were able to assist with put up and take down of decorations, and tables and chairs were certainly appreciated.

(Continued on page 8)

Our regular Round dancers strutted their stuff; up to 4 squares were on the floor for 2 evenings, 3 for Heather's Mainstream workshop (focus points: e.g., the Thars, the Tag Family)

We were happy to see family, and dance community friends from Smithers, Ft. St. James, Vanderhoof, and Quesnel.

It was great for us to see a spectrum of dancers taking part; guest Mainstream dancers, more Plus, A1&2 dancers than usual, retired dancers, and extra Round dancers from Quesnel and Fort St James. It's heart warming to be around the friendship and joy of those who make square and round dancing an important activity in

Our May 1-3 Jamboree, 'Spring Fling', will be a full weekend with well known caller, **Steve Edlund** from Surrey. Thanks to a suggestion by **Barb Dean**, **Connie Ritchie**, established cuer from Victoria, will do Rounds for the Jamboree. Her workshop on the Saturday will be Tango. We are looking forward to Steve and to Connie and to touching bases with dancers from many clubs.

Some of our senior dancers travel

their lives.

together for jamborees, festivals, and workshops, BUT did you know they also take part as friends in local activities not dance related, AND they regularly travel to warm destinations like Mexico together. Value and nurture the friendships at your fingertips if you continue to dance and experience the warmth and feeling of community gained. It will be great if dancers consider Square including and Round Dancing events in their travels (Williams Lake, Penticton, Chase, Salmon Arm, Lower Mainland, The Island, Washington State, Alberta). The BC Square and

Round Dance Federation website has information.

Don't forget the **21st Canadian National Square and Round Dance Festival** is July 29 - August 1, 2020 at the Sheraton Guildford, Surrey, followed by an opportunity to sail with over 100 dancers on a Celebrity cruise /Alaska.

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

\*Check out our club website at www.northerntwisters.ca for posters, still photos, and videos.



#### Vanderhoof Drifting Squares.

by Sandi Jesperson

Our beginner group is doing really well and some of our Mainstream dancers are making excellent angels. We are down to four regular beginners who are doing well. Snowbirds and illness always take their toll.

**Lorna** and **Rick Beatty** have had health issues and we wish them speedy recovery.

It is not unusual to see five or six couples round dancing when **Dolores** is doing beginner rounds. It nice to see the success they are having and their determination to learn each new dance move.

Our Christmas dance was bright and cheery. **Gys**, and **Dolores** called and cued for beginners mostly. We tried to keep them on the floor all evening. The first dance in January was our annual Hat Dance and our new dancer, **David Ferguson**, was the winner for the most creative hat. For his efforts he received a Co-op gift card. Thanks to everyone that participated.

We have had to cancel dances because of the extreme cold in mid-January. Hard to determine when to cancel but we didn't have complaints when I did. It's a nice time to stay home by the fire with a good book or to make some cookies.

Looking forward to our next dance with a potluck (we'll eat before we dance) on February 12th. **Gys** and **Dolores** will be calling/ cueing, and everyone is invited. We often have family members come and eat, as at our Hat Dance. Some stayed for rounds. We might get them hooked yet.

I want to thank **Dolores** for stepping up calling/cueing all evening when I was ill this past Thursday and to all the dancers that help set up the hall and clean up afterwards and also those that volunteer to bring treats. With all this help it makes my job easier. In early January I fell and struggled to even limp the first 2 or 3 days. I did not dance on the 9th and even found it hard to concentrate and call for the beginners. **Dolores** filled in the calls for part of the evening and went on to call for the Mainstream dancers. It's good to know you can count on a colleague to pitch in and do a good job.

In March we are aiming to dance on March 12th at the seniors' residences for St. Patrick's day. We will dance from 6:45 until 8:00 p.m.

Once we know the Spring Break schedule for our school district, we can plan the other dances. At the moment our 17th birthday dance and pot luck will be the 9th of April. The last dance and pot luck will be May 7th.

Some of our dancers are planning on attending the Williams Lake Jamboree and also the Prince George Jamboree as well.

Don't be a stranger. We'd love to have you come and dance with us. Beginner rounds: 6:30 to 7:15; beginner squares from then until 8:15 and Mainstream from 8:15 to 9:30. (Depending on how many leave early, we don't always dance all the way to 9:30.) Refreshments are always available and an evening's dancing and goodies for \$5 is the best deal in town. If you've never danced with us, then you dance for free. Stay warm everyone and see you on the dance floor.

#### IT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL IF......

- 1... Club members would remember to wear their badges each week.
- 2... Dancers would bring a reusable cup for coffee break so that we could cut down on the amount of styrofoam and plastic waste that we generate.
- 3... Dancers who have internet access would make sure that they have an email address that they check often. Give the address to the club executive so that it will be easy to contact you when dancing has to be cancelled for an unexpected reason.



- Roses to **Kathy Steen** of the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways. Thank you for delivering the November edition of the Cariboo Connection to Prince George for us.
- Roses to **Dana Ball and the Stampede Whirlaways.** Nick and I would like to thank you so much for the wonderful gifts we were given at Christmas. The flowers made the house look so cheerful and the bag full of goodies to open each day before Christmas was such fun. A note explained that the gifts in the bag were items to help us get ready for Christmas. One of the first packages that we opened contained a small plant pot and a box of 4 little Spruce seeds. This was so we could plant our Christmas tree. We followed the instructions and here is what our Christmas trees look like at the moment. I guess it won't be too long before we need to get some decorations for them . LOL



#### •Thank You to the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways

After attending 12 years straight, Beth and I were disappointed to have to miss the 2019 Jamboree because I was in the hospital for cancer surgery and treatment.

When Dustin and Annie returned from the weekend, I was surprised and deeply touched to receive the monies generously donated to me by the club and their guests.

Thank you so very much to the club and all the dancers who contributed to this unexpected and deeply appreciated support.

Once recovered, and after working a busy but late into the fall season, we made a trip to the Canadian Cancer Society in Kelowna and a donation in the amount of \$300 was made comprised of the generous gift from the club and the dancers.

Thank you again and I know the cancer society appreciates the donation. Hoping to see you all on a dance floor again soon!



Yellow Rocks!

Darcy McGifford

#### Bits n' Pieces

#### **Christmas Party Blues**

Our square dance Christmas party Was about a week away, And like all the other members I looked forward to that day.

I ironed a favourite dress of mine, Searched out frilly square dance things, Then hunted through my jewellery box For a necklace and ear-rings.

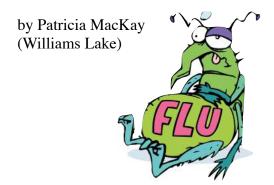
I'd baked a batch of Christmas cakes, Made brownies, squares and such, Plus shortbread, and snickerdoodles, 'Cause I liked the home-made touch.

The hall was well decorated, And so was the Christmas tree, Later gifts would be placed near there, Food and toys for charity.

But on the morning of the party The day of our Christmas fling, A nasty unwanted little bug Arrived without a warning.

My outfit was not used that night, It just hung on the bedroom door, And I had a full-blown hissy fit, And was mad, and sad - and swore

That next year a bug wouldn't get close, It never would stand a chance, Darn it - I'd even have a flu shot So I could join in the next Christmas dance





The Williams Lake March Merriment Dance is a fund raiser for the local Child Development Center. If you wish to participate, start saving your Toonies and Loonies now for March 5, 2020.

You can donate to the cause, participate in the goodie auction, or just come and have fun dancing.

Let all your friends and neighbours know about the event. They might want to participate in the auction or get you to bid on goodies on their behalf.

Thanks for your support!



#### **REGION 5 DANCE SCHEDULE 2020**

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



WHEN	WHERE	EVENT	CALLERS/ CUERS
Feb. 10, 2020	Prince George	Valentine's Day Dance	Panel
Feb. 13, 2020	Vanderhoof	Potluck Valentine's Dance	Sandi, Dolores
Feb. 24, 2020	Prince George	Theme Night-Sadie Hawkins Dance	Panel
Mar. 5, 2020	Williams Lake	March Merriment Dance and Charity Auction of Desserts and Goodies.	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
March 12, 2020	Vanderhoof	St. Patrick's Dance	
Mar. 16, 2020	Prince George	St. Patrick's Dinner and Dance	Panel
April 6, 2020	Prince George	Goofer's Night	Panel
April 9, 2020	Vanderhoof	17th Birthday Dance	
April 20, 2020	Prince George	Theme Night - 50s and 60s	Panel
May 1-3, 2020	Prince George	63rd Spring Jamboree	Steve Edlund and Connie Ritchie
May 22-24, 2020	Williams Lake	62nd Mainstream Jamboree -Planes, Trains, & Things That Go Theme	Heather Reynolds Nick and Mary Anne Turner
July 30-Aug.1, 2020	Surrey, BC	Canadian National Square & Round Dance Festival	Many Callers & Cuers

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( It will be posted there after I get the hard copies delivered.)

If you wish to submit an article to the Cariboo Connection, contact us at <a href="mailto:nmturner@telus.net">nmturner@telus.net</a> The deadline date for the April issue is <a href="mailto:March 20">March 20</a>, <a href="mailto:20020.">2020</a>.

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If you need more of these stickers, contact Mary Anne -

nmturner@telus.net