

**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 1, 2017.

After many years of service, our four Region 5 Delegates, **Helen and Henry Hall** and **Bill and Marilyn Rose** have retired from their positions. We are very grateful for their past support.

In the last bulletin, I put out a call for some new volunteers. Fortunately 4 people stepped up. Yippee! They 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. Put "Report for BOD" in the subject line of your email.

**Looking for Ideas to Add Interest to your Club Nights?**

#1. The R Square D club from Kelso, Washington held a dance called **"Take Me Out to the Ball Game"**. Peanuts, Cracker Jacks and hot dogs were served. Many dancers wore baseball team jerseys. The caller and cuer had baseball related music to add to the fun.

#2 Buzzin' Bees Club in Vancouver Washington had a theme dance called **"Raining Cats and Dogs"**. That evening the dancers donated pet foods and other pet related items which were given to the local Humane Society. Some dancers came wearing dog, cat, or rain gear. *(I bet that our local SPCA branches would welcome such an event. They are always short of items. Such an event would also make an interesting press release.)*

#3 Timber Twirlers Club in Oregon held a **Popcorn and Movies Night**. Of course, popcorn was served and they danced to music from the movies.

#4 ???

Ideas are needed to help square dancers in our region celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. What can we do out in the community to show people the fun we have and celebrate the birthday at the same time? Of course we can dance to songs about Canada - but can anyone come up with an idea that is 'out of the box'?



REGION REFLECTIONS

Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways

by Gil McCall

I ate so much I could hardly dance. That's my excuse anyway as I recall the marvelous food and camaraderie at our annual Christmas dinner. We had a good turnout and the evening was enjoyed by all. **Nick and Mary Anne Turner** did the calling and cueing with melodies in the seasonal mode. We were also happy that many of our people brought donations of food items for our special basket designed for those who may not have the ability to buy such goodies. Thank you.

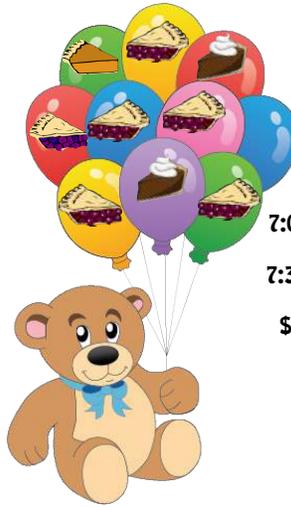
Speaking of Christmas, Whirlaway dancers **Neil and Jeanie Vant** often spend a portion of the holiday season in Barkerville. Although they live most of the year in Williams Lake, they also have a home in the Gold Rush area. Jeanie tells me the Victorian Christmas in Barkerville can be experienced on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday two weeks before Christmas. You can enjoy visiting St. Nicholas, taking horse-drawn sleigh rides and of course shopping at Barkerville merchants for unique gift items including lovely B.C. jade, Barkerville vests and real gold items! You can stay right in Barkerville at St. Georges Hotel or at a bed and breakfast and the food outlets are excellent. If you visit Barkerville next December, prepare to have fun skating in the newly constructed outdoor pavilion or tube sliding on the old Shamrock Mine Tailings. Sounds like a golden idea.

Golden too are the new dancers in our club. They had been learning the ins and outs of the craft on Monday evenings, but as of the first Thursday in January, they joined the Mainstreamers and are doing very well. Welcome aboard to all of you. Enjoy!

It's always nice to have folks drop in from other clubs. Recently we had a visitor from Swan River, Manitoba. **Darlene Simms** dances with the Swan Valley Hoe-downers. Her son and daughter-in-law live in the Laketown and just welcomed a new baby into the world, so grandma Darlene now has a granddaughter named Rosie Jane. The little girl



March Merriment Pie & Ice Cream Night



Saturday
March 4, 2017

Child Development Center
690 North 2nd Avenue
Williams Lake, BC

7:00 P.M. Pre-Rounds - Mary Anne Turner

7:30 P.M. Mainstream Dance - Nick Turner

\$8.00 each (Charity Fund Raiser Night)

Extra pies will be auctioned after the
dance. Proceeds will be used to
support the Child Development Center.

Dana 250-392-3066
dball@telus.net

Kae 250-392-7179

After the dance,
enjoy pie & ice cream

joins brothers Tripp and Tucker. Let's hope they all become dancers!

Our next special event will be March Merriment Pie and Ice Cream Night to be held on Saturday, March 4th. Our club members kindly donate pies. We eat some of them after the dance and then we auction the rest. The funds raised from the auction go to our good friends at the Child Development Center. This is a great party night...and the pies are OH SO GOOD. Pre-Rounds start at 7 p.m. and Mainstream dancing at 7:30.

We are also looking forward to seeing many dancers at our 59th Jamboree. It will be held May 26-28, 2017. See the next page for complete information.

That is it for this time...but, remember...DON'T BE A SQUARE----DANCE!

Williams Lake Jamboree by Gil McCall

The Long House is located on the Stampede Grounds and will be the scene for our 59th annual Mainstream Jamboree come May 26-28, 2017.

The theme this year is 'A Safari Expedition' and includes a Rumble in the Jungle Friday evening with the **Turners** calling rounds and squares.

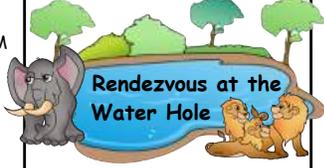
Saturday morning will see a Round Dance Social.

Guest caller, **Dustin McGifford**, will be swingin' Saturday afternoon starting at 1:30 as we Rendezvous at the Water Hole.

The big and delicious dinner goes at 6 p.m. at the Funky Monkey Bistro...and at 7:30, it's pre-rounds. Then at 8 Saturday evening, our good man Dustin will prevail for The Serengeti Swing.

Sunday morning we will have a continental breakfast and Mainstream dancing. Guest callers and cuers are more than welcome at this event,.

For further info on the Jamboree, call Dana at 250-392-3066 or Nick at 250-392-2432

<p style="text-align: center;">Williams Lake May 26-28, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: right;">"A Safari Expedition" Mainstream Jamboree</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p> <p>Weekend Package \$45.00 each</p>			
<p>↓ ↓ ↓</p> <p>Note our LOCATION</p> <p>The Long House</p> <p>(Upper Left side of Stampede Grounds, near the Curling Rink)</p> <p>At intersection of Hwy 97 and Hwy 20, turn on to Hwy 20.</p> <p>Take first exit right on to Mackenzie Avenue.</p> <p>Turn right on to 7th Avenue (just in front of Auto Pro sign) and go up the hill. Turn right on Pinchbeck St.</p> <p>Go almost to end of street and the hall driveway will be on your left.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday - Rumble in Jungle - \$8.00 each</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7:30 PM Pre-Rounds 8:00 PM Mainstream Dancing</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Caller: Nick Turner Cuer: Mary Anne Turner</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>		
<p>For Info Dana 250-392-3066 dball@telus.net</p> <p>Nick 250-392-2432 nmtuner@telus.net</p> <p>Free dry camping at the hall but the WL Stampede Campground is located very near by. Reservations are likely needed. See www.williamslakestampede.com/campground</p>	<p>Saturday Morning 10:00 - 11:30 AM</p> <p>Enjoy a Round Dance Social with Mary Anne and Nick Turner Phase II+ \$6.00 each</p>	<p>Saturday Afternoon 1:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rendezvous at the Water Hole</p> <p>Safari Treats and Mainstream Fun with caller: Dustin McGifford \$8.00 each</p>	<p>Saturday Evening 6:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Supper at the Whirlaways Funky Monkey Bistro \$16.00 each</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday Night - The Serengeti Swing</p> <p>7:30 PM Pre-rounds with Mary Anne Turner</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: right;">8:00 PM Mainstream Dancing with Our Featured Caller: Dustin McGifford \$10.00 each</p>			
<p>Guest Callers and Cuers welcome on Sunday</p>		<p>Sunday - Enjoy a Continental breakfast and casual dancing before leaving. "See you later, Alligator!" \$6.00 each</p> <p>8:30 AM - 10:00 AM - Breakfast is Served 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Mainstream Dancing</p>	

Yellow Rock - Just a Turner Opinion

When callers say, "Yellow rock your corner," they mean for you to give her/him a hug. "Yellow Rock" was introduced back when a proliferation of new calls inundated the Square Dance world and the call was a hit into the eighties. The is no longer in popular use, mostly due to dancers' dislike of being told they have to hug.

Personally, I do not enjoy the call "Yellow rock" and I believe that, like me, many dancers do not like to be hugged by strangers in or out of a square.

In today's square dance world, there are dancers who even avoid callers known for their frequent use of Yellow rock. New callers and hugaholics take note.

However, I will call "Yellow rock your **Opposite**" on very rare occasions because it's fun to watch the chaos that ensues and I don't have to participate.



call

Mile Zero Grand Squares (Dawson Creek)

(We didn't receive any club news from Dawson Creek this time but below you will find an article from Jean Smith describing how Bernie Smith became the club caller.)

Bernie & Jean Smith's Square Dance Club: Mile Zero Grand Squares

December 1999, **Bernie and Jean Smith** retired from their farm in Golata Creek. They moved 50 miles south and bought their retirement home in Dawson Creek. While living on the farm they square danced regularly with the Fort St. John Forty Niners (**Brian Johnston** calling), the Doe River Promenaders, the Bear Canyon Do-Si-Dos, the Ray Lake Dancers and the Mile Zero Grand Squares (with **Rod Sipe** calling). Rod Sipe was a good caller and teacher. We had a great time with him.

Odd times, when there were few dancers attending, he would say, "Don't worry. I put on the party for those who come."

Rod was teaching & encouraging Bernie to learn to call and teach square dance and cue round dance. I believe Rod may have had a feeling he might need a replacement caller in the future.

It wasn't long after Bernie had learned to do a bit of calling and teaching that we received a phone call asking Bernie to do the calling for the Doe River Promenaders for one evening. Little did we know that Rod had already passed but the family didn't want the dancers to miss their evening of dancing. Knowing Rod I'm sure he would have wanted it that way.

That one evening turned into full time calling. Prior to retiring from the farm Bernie had been calling for the Doe River Promenaders and after the sudden passing of long time caller Rod Sipe, it didn't take very long for people to start asking Bernie if he would consider calling for the Mile Zero Grand Squares, Dawson Creek's square dance club.

Bernie was a bit hesitant, so we discussed it and he decided to take on the challenge. On January, 2000

Bernie started calling in the Sudeten Hall for the Mile Zero Grand Squares.

We tried to encourage someone to take on the job of organizing the club, unfortunately no one offered. The next step was for us to have a caller run club.

We are fortunate to have a great group of people who are willing to help with setting up and taking down equipment and chairs. They are also willing to take turns in providing lunch.

Bernie teaches and calls Square Dance and Contra & he cues Round Dances. We started our seventeenth year of calling on September, 26th, 2016, and are currently dancing with 22 people. With a little luck we hope to get at least 3 squares before the end of the season.

Skeena Squares (Terrace)

A Note from Diane Weismiller

Happy New Year. Hope you aren't suffering too much in this cold weather. We are having the coldest day so far but it is supposed to be raining on Saturday.

Our club is down to one square for a couple of weeks while we wait for some of our members to recover from surgery or return from their travels.

We are carrying on reviewing moves and **Hans** has offered to teach us a line dance or two to add a little variety to our program. None of us are round dancers so this will be something new to try.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year to all the dancers in Region 5.

**Note: A Callers' School will be held in
Wetaskiwin, Alberta - July 16 -21, 2017**

For full info and a registration form - go to

**[http://www.centralalbertadancing.com/
SRDIAA/SRDIAA-CallerSchool-2017.pdf](http://www.centralalbertadancing.com/SRDIAA/SRDIAA-CallerSchool-2017.pdf)**

Vanderhoof Drifting Squares by Sandi Jespersen

Winter has been good to us and yet we have had to cancel 2 dances because of ice or sub zero temperatures. We have come up with a cut off for the temperature when deciding if we will have a dance. We have many dancers who come from an hour or more away, so we needed to do this. -25 at 4:00 (with windchill too) and I cancel the dance. Icy roads is a different kettle of fish. It can be quite warm and that makes the roads horrible.

Our New Dancers are moving along very well. We had 3 new ones in late November. Welcome to **Will and Ankie Nellen** and their visitor from Holland, **Astrid Heck**, who has decided to join and learn as much as she can before returning in April. All have done well to play "catch up" and had one private lesson at **Sandi's** house to begin. (My garage works well for a 2 on 2 lesson.)

Our Christmas dance, with a delicious pot luck, was so much fun. Glad to see so many visitors out for the pot luck and 2 squares on the floor. The New Dancers enjoyed being there all night and got pretty tired since they usually go home at 8:30!

I want to thank **Dolores Young** for all her help this year with dancing. I have been having difficulties dancing every tip and also getting my tips to call, ready for dance. I do the New Dancers (with much help from **Moving and Grooving**) but I usually let Dolores do rounds and the rest of the evening for squares. She is doing well and the Mainstream dancers are enjoying her variety of calls. Thanks so much.



Several of us went to the **S n o w f l a k e Dance** in Prince George. I got to do quite a bit of round dancing because **Merv Meyer** didn't have a partner (**S a n d y Meyer** was cueing) and it was so nice to

be on the floor for rounds. We enjoyed the whole weekend : **Dolores, Dave Riske, Bob and myself, and Jerita and Terry Holmquist.** So much fun and great food on Saturday.

We are back in the swing of things this January but the cold (-30C) has been a challenge. We were looking forward to warmer weather but it meant a lot of melting and very icy roads. **Sandi** had a pipe break in the garage and had to miss dancing. We ended up cancelling the dance that evening because we could get only 5 dancers to say they were coming. Things work out if you let them. (groan!!!) Our first dance in January was a "Hat Dance." Everyone wore a great chapeau and although we did not have pictures that night, we have great memories of trying to stay warm.

So we look forward to special dances from now until May.

Feb. 16th: Valentine's Day Dance: Dolores and Sandi calling/cueing: potluck starts at 5:30, rounds at 6:30, squares at 7(new dancers) and 8 (Mainstream) Wear pink, red and white and dance with us.

March 9th: St. Pat's Dance: Gys, Dolores and Sandi calling/cueing; wear green and dance with us.

April 13 (proposed): dance for Nechako Manor 7 to 8 pm- no charge to dance, **Gys, Dolores and Sandi** calling/cueing: **Floral Dance** - come with flowers in your hair, your lapel, or wear floral clothing... dress up for the residents (next to the hospital)

April 27: Our 14th Birthday: Gys, Dolores and Sandi calling/cueing: potluck starts at 5:30, rounds at 6:30, squares at 7(new dancers) and 8 (Mainstream) Come dance with us. There will be cake!!

May 11: Last dance of the year: Gys, Dolores and Sandi calling/cueing: potluck starts at 5:30, rounds at 6:30, squares at 7(new dancers) and 8 (Mainstream). Come dance with us.

All dances are at the United Church Hall on Church Street and usually start at 6:30 (rounds) 7 (New Dancers) and 8 to 9:30 (Mainstream). Cost is \$5/ person/night. We'd love to have you join us.

Prince George Northern Twisters by Julie Skead

2017! None of us can believe how the years fly by. Hello and Happy New Year to all the dancers out there.

Gys Koops is our caller, **Gary Dean** our cuer. We're also glad to have **Dolores Young** and **Jolanda Van Dyk** calling now and then.

We usually have 4 squares of dancers every week. New dancers are diving in to practise basics and picking up on the ones new to them.

We are sad to report that we lost a member, **Noelene Smith**, who passed away suddenly in November. Noelene was younger than most of us, a valued worker dedicated to her shift work, and a positive personality. Our condolences to Noelene's family and friends.

We enjoyed a Hallowe'en dance night....with all the appropriate decorations and many dancers in costumes or wearing orange and black.

Our 'Snowflake' was a November weekend and a supper. It was great to have **Merv Meyer** and **Sandy Gregson-Meyer** from Kamloops sharing their friendship and love of dancing, giving encouragement and introducing or reviewing challenging figures.

The Christmas supper and dance night was another happy time of dancing and visiting. We appreciate the work of our decorating crew led by **Susan** and **Neil Hunter**.

By the time this newsletter comes out, our Robbie Burns supper and dance will have been held on Saturday, Jan. 21st. I know the plaids will have been displayed in outfits and table and wall decorations. **Ken Sipe** was the caller and

Gary Dean was to cue the rounds. We had a great supper planned including the 'piping in' of the haggis with a toast led by **Roy Nielson**.

A 'heads up': our club is proud to be in its 60th year. Plans are in the works for our gala 'Looking Back' June 2-4th Jamboree at the Hart Pioneer Center here in Prince George. Callers/cuers returning to challenge us and make us laugh, will be **Murray Few** from Edmonton, calling since he was 15, and **Jerry Jestin**, who grew up in Canada then expanded his career in Texas while attending university. He now enjoys and works out of Yuma, Arizona. We'd sure like to hear from past dancers, many of whom have moved from Prince George over the years.

My email is juliamcgowan@gmail.com for anyone out there who is or knows of someone we should contact and invite. (Continued on Page 7)

Come and join the Northern Twisters for our 60th Jamboree!



LOOKING BACK:

June 2, 3, and 4th, 2017 in Prince George



Featurig:



Jerry Jestin

And



Murray Few

Venue: Hart Pioneer Centre			
2 nd Friday	7:30pm - 8:00pm	Pre-rounds	
	8:00pm - 10:00pm	Mainstream dance	\$15
3 rd Saturday	10:00am - 12:00 noon	Rounds	\$12
	1:00pm - 3:00	Mainstream	\$12
	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Plus	\$12
	7:30pm - 8:00pm	Pre-rounds	
	8:00pm - 10:00pm	Mainstream dance	\$15
4 th Sunday	10:00am	Trail out dance	No charge
		Panel of callers and cuers	No charge






Not included in Weekend Package price:

Saturday 6:00pm	Dinner	prices TBA	Reserve dinner by May 20	phone Glenda 250-563-7743
Sunday 9:00am	Breakfast at the Hart	\$8	Web page:	www.northerntwisters.ca

Dry Camping is available on site. Billeting is available call Reta 250-962-2740



(Continued from Page 6)

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

Cool: we now have t-shirts available with the Northern Twisters logo.

Gervin H. writes...'It's great to be back into the regular routine of dancing - Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Round and Line dancing. Yes, you might say we're dancing fanatics. Late November, early December, found **Maurice** and **Adele, Martin** and **Rose** and **Cath** and **I** on a great adventure visiting Southeast Asia for three weeks. The tour included Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bali and Hong Kong. We were all amazed with every place we visited and impressed with the tour company Sinorama. We all practised our square dancing with Taminations while we were away. We would all recommend the trip if you are interested in Southeast Asia.

There are lots of jamborees coming up this summer, starting with Williams Lake in May and Edmonton in early September....www.communitydance.org Last summer Cath and I attended seven jamborees. They were all great fun with excellent and different callers. Hope to see all of you at one, two, three, four.....jamborees this summer. Also did you know that a square dancing chicken is 'poultry in motion.'

***Feel free to browse at our website www.northerntwisters.ca and you can check us out on Face Book.

***Join us any time you're in Prince George; square and round dancing Mondays at 7 at Knox United Church, 5th and Brunswick.

BC FESTIVAL 2017



SQUARE & ROUND DANCE

MINI FESTIVAL

JULY 6, 7, 8
Cloverdale Rodeo Grounds
60500 176 St., Cloverdale, B.C



www.facebook.com/bc.festival.2017
bcfestival2017@gmail.com or David: 604-864-7435
Sponsored by: BC Square & Round Dance Federation
Hosted by: Fraser Valley Square & Round Dance Association and
Vancouver & District Caller Teachers Association

**Have you
registered
yet?**

Come On Over To Cloverdale

As Christmas time passes and a new year begins, we think of the wonderful gifts we've given and received. In this new year why not treat yourself to a great square dance gift, a summer vacation at the BC Square and Round Dance Festival in Cloverdale, BC.

On July 6, 7, & 8, 2017 we're inviting the Province and our neighbours to join us for a fun-filled dance event, and we promise to bring smiles to your faces and songs to your heart.

On our website, www.BCFestival2017.squaredance.bc.ca, check out our calling and cueing talent, from all over BC, and Washington State. We've lined up two great square dance halls for you to dance in, with sunrise and sunset themes, to give you that feeling of a full day of fun.

Round dancers will have a spot to dance too, right on site. Refreshments are on site as well, so you're never far from your favourite tip or round, and dry RV camping with electricity will be right there as well. A great hotel is located right across the street. And with the town of Cloverdale right at hand, there's extra restaurants, hotels, and RV sites that'll give everyone quick access to the dance action.

Again, all this information, and much, much more is on our website, so please check it out, and invest some thought into attending our BC Square & Round Dance Festival 2017. You'll be giving yourself a great summer experience.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT !

Would Square Dancing be your first choice?

By John Fogg *Reprinted with permission from www.ceder.net*

Contrast these 3 situations:

1. You walk into a bar where they **line dance**. You've never line danced before, you don't have a partner. They walk you through one specific line dance that night, and you dance that dance off and on all night. You don't need a partner.

2. You walk into the **Contra dance**. You've never Contra danced before, you don't have a partner. They teach each Contra dance before they dance it, and they have a half hour walk through on contra dancing basics before the dancing starts. Since the custom is to change partners with every dance, you don't have a problem finding a partner all night long, and you end up dancing with every person in the hall by the time the night is over.

3. You walk into a **square dance**. You've never square danced before you don't have a partner. Unless you were lucky enough to hit the beginning of a beginners' group, they tell you you have to wait for a new beginners' group to form, take lessons for several months, you have to arrange your own partner situation and we'll see you in 6 months, 10 months or whatever. You don't dance at all that night.

Now after those 3 experiences, where do you go? Remember that this is the age of instant gratification. You may not like that, but it's true. Can square dancing complete with those other dance scenarios? Or with other entertainment scenarios, of which we have many. Finally, does it have to be this way with square dancing?

I don't think so. It wasn't always that way. Imagine a fourth scenario. You walk into the square dance, you don't have a partner, You've never square danced before. There's a half hour with very basic instruction like swing your partner do-si-do, maybe 10 calls maximum. There's other people there without partners and the old time club members try to line you up with a partner, maybe dancing with you themselves if they can't find somebody. Brand new dancers and old timers all dance, and the more experienced help the less experienced.

The second dance is announced as mainstream, plus, A2 or whatever, and the people who can and want to dance at a higher level, do so. The next dance is back to beginners.

Square dancing, in the present incarnation, started after World War II with married couples looking for fun and socializing without spending much money. Most of that has changed. Many couples aren't even married any more, and there are many, many more singles. There's a lot more money around, and a lot more variety in how to spend it entertaining yourself.

Square dancing is still fun and a great way to socialize. We just aren't reaching our potential members. Why we are not is because we are attempting to force them into the mold that most of us fit into in the late '40's and early '50's. We will not be successful in doing that. Unless there is a drastic change, square dancing as we know it will disappear in 10 years or less. If we insist on dancing at rarefied levels that require years of training and insist that beginners be part of a couple, square dancing will die with us.

Region 5 Dancers - any ideas or suggestions?

CONVENTION 2018

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



LONDON CONVENTION CENTRE
300 YORK ST.
www.londoncc.com

Enquiries:
Phone: 519-396-9877 or 519-396-7228
Toll free 1-866-206-6696 (in Canada)

Web: www.squaredance.ca/2018

E-mail: convention2018@squaredance.ca
Post Office Mail: Convention 2018, c/o Lee & Sharon Cox
12 Anne Marie Crescent, Kincardine, ON N2Z 2M9



20TH Canadian National Square & Round Dance Convention

It's Fun Looking Back

Meadow Muffin Fun by Patricia MacKay
(with thanks to Kae Stafford for her input)

Thirty one years ago in August 1985, four square dance couples joined **John Stirling** and me on a five day exploratory trek through the Chilcotin. Having ranched in that area of B.C. since 1955, John was familiar with the back roads and trails that criss-cross the country south of Highway Twenty.

Like John and I, **Kae** and **Rick Johnson**, and their two children, fourteen year old **Loretta** and eleven year old **Darcy**, belonged to the Stampede Whirlaways Square Dance Club in Williams Lake. Our caller then - and now - was **Nick Turner**. The other three couples, **Roger** and **Dorothy Hildebrand**, **Herb** and **Dodie Donaldson** and **Cliff** and **Ruth Brodie**, were from the Cariboo Wheelers Square Dance Club in Quesnel. Their caller at the time was **Eric Beneschek**.

Four couples travelled in campers, while Cliff and Ruth drove their motor home, and between us we had three run-about boats. A lot of fishing took place on that trip. Nothing compares to fresh trout taken from a cold water lake and cooked over a smoking campfire. Yum!

The first part of the journey took us along Highway Twenty, passed Alexis Creek and Bull Canyon. A little further on we turned onto the Newton Road near Bayliff's. It was here that our cross-country drive began. The going was rough and in places close to being impassable, but we took our time and no one experienced any major problems, although we did become lost at one point.

That first night we camped at River Junction, where the Chilcotin and Chilko Rivers meet. Numerous spawning salmon were swimming three to four deep near the shore, plainly visible as they paused to rest on their upstream journey. **John** showed us how to put a fish in a trance simply by tickling its belly. As soon as he quit, the fish came to and moved on. Later we searched for arrow heads, but had no luck, although a few years earlier John had found several in the same area. His extensive collection is on display in the Williams Lake museum.

The following morning we continued south on the Newton Road to Henry's Crossing. As we had travelled quite a bit that day we decided to forgo visiting Bluff and Horn Lake and camped at Sapeye Lake so that those who

wanted to fish could do so. The rest of us enjoyed wading in the various lakes along the way, always staying close to shore. None were brave enough to attempt swimming in the choppy and chilly waters.

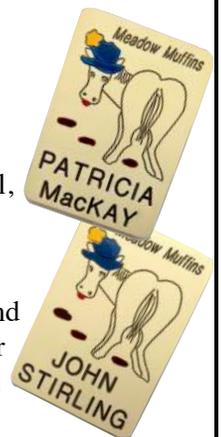
The third day we back-tracked to Chilko then later continued on to Tsuniah Lake where we stayed the night. **John** and **Cliff** had been appointed main campfire cooks and did an excellent job. All of us pitched in with dishes, food preparation, wood gathering and camp maintenance.

Some of us had never experienced traveling through this remarkable country before and those who had were obviously re-impressed with the amazing grasslands and the many and varied protected areas in the south-western part of this place called Chilcotin.

We spent the last night back at River Junction, and after evening chores had been completed, we agreed to hold an impromptu square dance around a pile of meadow muffins that we discovered in the centre of the road. At that time collecting various square dance badges was popular - the more unusual the better. We had no idea if there was such a thing as a Meadow Muffin badge, but decided to dance anyway in the hopes that one would be forthcoming. We had no music, no caller and no dance to call, but eventually I came up with the following that was performed around and across the pile of muffins.

Honour your partner. Honour your corner.
Give a hoot and a holler as you prance around the pile
Of meadow muffins, now do it with some style.
Swing your partner around and around,
Swing your honey 'til her feet leave the ground.
Put her on the left, Then circle to the right,
Ladies back track, now do it right.
Allemande left, then allemande thar,
Men back in and make a star,
Circle it once, then circle it twice,
You're all doing well - and look real nice!
We're blocking the road with this crazy call,
So do a grand right and left,
And goodnight, y'all!

That fall all of us - including Loretta and Darcy - applied for, and received, our Meadow Muffin badges. Several of us still have them in our collections.



Geographically, Region 5 is an enormous square dance region. It extends from just north of Kamloops to the BC/Alaskan border. In the northern part of the region, numerous clubs that once danced no longer exist. Among them were the Fort St. John Forty Niners, Doe River Promenaders, Bear Canyon Do-Si-Dos, and Ray Lake Dancers. Happily, however, the Mile Zero Grand Squares of Dawson Creek are still dancing. Below are some Dawson Creek memories contributed by former dancers.

Fifty Years of Square Dancing in Dawson Creek

By Shirley Grayston – Feb. 2011

Square dancing has been an important part of the entertainment in the Peace River Country for 50 years. Allan and I are happy to have been able to enjoy meeting and dancing with such wonderful people.

It all started in the spring of 1956 when we took a few social dance lessons from **Gene Wilkinson**. This sparked interest and we decided to take Square Dance lessons in the 60's and we graduated into the Chicks and Chux Club. This was a very active club and on a regular night we would have at least six squares. Many of our dancers were from the local RCMP and the Imperial Oil office. **Stan Devonshire** was the President and I was the Secretary-Treasurer. One of our Jamborees was well attended with 27 squares and **Don Krebs** was the Caller. *{Editor's note: Don Krebs is still calling in Salmon Arm}*

The Chix and Chux dance club continued for many years but eventually it dropped right off and nothing was happening.

In the fall of 1987 it was time to get Square Dancing going again in Dawson Creek. I contacted Caller **Rod Sipe** to see if he was willing to call at the Seniors' Hall. He was such a good sport and such a good caller that he said he would come and do his best. I advertised for young and old to come & dance. On Oct 29, 1987 Mile Zero Grand Squares had their first dance. We had large turnouts at the start but as calls became more difficult some folks dropped out. We ended up with a good group of dancers and in 1992 we helped organize the 50th Anniversary caravan up the Alaska Highway.

We formed an executive with **Larry Holthe** as President, I was the Secretary and **Kit Fearon** was the Treasurer. Many others helped to make this a big success. There was a big supper at the Seniors Hall for everyone in the Caravan and then dancing after. We had so many dancers that we had to use the parking lot for some of the dancers. **Larry and Joan Holthe** were the Wagon Masters for this large group of 62 units. I believe it was the largest caravan to travel the highway that year.

{Editor's note: Many of the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways took part in the Alaska Highway Caravan in the latter part of its existence}

Square Dancing In Dawson Creek

By Veryl Lillico – 2012



Our square dancing began in 1960, with a night school program. The new Senior High School was on the corner of 10th and 105th Ave. It had a nice large gym with bleachers. Unfortunately it burned down and our later dances were at the Dawson Creek Elementary School. This school had a kitchen and we were able to use it for coffee breaks and big meals when we had guest callers, graduations, and many other special events.

Our beginner class was instructed by **Elmer and Marion Canning**. They were members of the Chix and Chux Square Dance Club.

Dancing and playing music was our family entertainment. We also were interested in calling so we purchased the required caller equipment and many records for learning rounds and square dancing. Then we were able to practise in homes of the beginners.

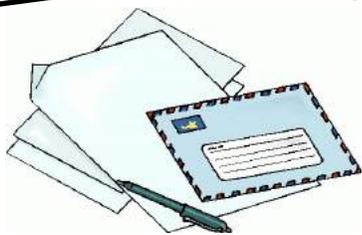
We danced until the end of September, 1978 and then moved to Buick Creek, B.C. That move made us 100 miles from Dawson Creek. Our time was spent clearing leased land and making necessary improvements to own a farm. No time for dancing.

In 2010, we were no longer farming. I rented out the farm and returned to Dawson Creek for retirement. I now dance with the Mile Zero Square Dance Club at the Pioneer Village.

Bits n' Pieces

Listen Up, Men!

We all know it is difficult to attract new dancers these days but have you also discovered that it is a great challenge to get men to come square dancing? Women often tell us that they would love to dance but that their partner would not even consider it. Below is a letter written to such men and posted on the Canadian Square and Round Dance Facebook page by Rachele Cournoyer. It was written by the Glenview Squares of Chicago. **Perhaps we should print copies of this letter and have them handy to give out at recruitment time!**



Dear Beloved,

As you know I tried square dancing last night. And I fell in love with it. I was grinning the entire time. It was just fun. The people were lovely. I had a great time. I want to keep doing it. I want to take lessons. But I don't want to do it without you.

This is a favor I'm asking of you. I know it's not something you're psyched about. But I actually believe you'd love it. First of all you have to get past the name. I know you have no desire to get out on a dance floor and flail about. I don't blame you. But this isn't dancing. There is no dancing in square dancing. I realize how odd that sounds. But it's just walking to music. What it is is problem solving. That's the part I think you'd like.

It's almost like a team sport. It's a little like football, except without the concussions. You've got formations. You've got a team around you. You've got plays sent in by the caller. The challenge is, can you run your route successfully? You've got this square of 8 people and you're trying to do the calls and it's not that simple. You have to think. You'd be great at it. And it's coed. You like girls, right?

You know how you'd like me to get more exercise. Well, I checked at the end of the evening, and I'd walked several miles. This has got to be the most fun exercise program I've ever run across. You know how you keep saying we should both do more to stay active. Here it is.

I know this is a commitment. We'd have to take lessons. But we'd be learning something together. That sounds like fun to me. We'd have a regular date night where we'd get out of the house. I love our shows, but there's got to be more to life than watching television. You'll notice I even watch football with you on occasion. That's called doing something for the one you love.

I don't want to hear excuses. I want you to give this a try. You can come for free the first time to check it out. If you try it and hate it, you're off the hook. Honey, I've done a lot of things for you over the years. Now it's payback time. I want you to do this for me. I want us to do this together. I want you by my side.

Your partner of many years



REGION 5 DANCE SCHEDULE 2016/2017

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



WHEN	WHERE	EVENT	CALLERS/ CUERS
Feb. 13, 2017	Prince George	Valentine's Day Dance	Gys Koops
Feb. 16, 2017	Vanderhoof	Valentine Potluck & Dance	Dolores and Sandi
Feb. 27, 2017	Prince George	Theme Night	Gys Koops
Mar. 4, 2017	Williams Lake	March Merriment & Pie Night Dance	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Mar. 9, 2017	Vanderhoof	St. Patrick's Dance	Gys, Dolores and Sandi
Mar. 13, 2017	Prince George	St. Patrick's Potluck and Dance	Gys Koops
Apr. 3, 2017	Prince George	Goofer's Night	Goofer Callers
Apr. 27, 2017	Vanderhoof	14th Birthday Dance and Potluck	Gys, Dolores and Sandi
May 26-28, 2017	Williams Lake	59th Spring Jamboree -Jungle Safari Theme	Dustin McGifford, Nick and Mary Anne Turner
June 2-4, 2017	Prince George	Spring Jamboree Weekend - 60th Anniversary !	Murray Few and Jerry Jestin
July 6-8, 2017	Cloverdale	BC Festival 2017	Many Callers & Cuers
July 19-21, 2018	London, Ontario	Canadian National Festival 2018	Many Callers & Cuers

Membership Cards - Missing in Action ?

Our region treasurer, Bill Cocker, has reported (as of Jan. 31) that he has not received our membership cards from the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society.

Bill is going on a holiday in February so it will be a while before you receive your cards.

We don't know what the hold up is but be assured that your dance memberships and insurance are in effect as of January 1, 2017.

DO YOU NEED MORE COPIES OF THE CARIBOO CONNECTION ? WANT TO SEE IT IN COLOUR?

To find the most recent copy of the Cariboo Connection Newsletter go to the website of the R5CCDA at **<http://www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca>**

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 21, 2017.**

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