



2 0 1 3 F A L L E D I T I O N

The CARIBOO CONNECTION

ISSUE # 43

EDITORS: MARY ANNE & NICK TURNER

Region 5 Caller, Cuer, and Dancer Association (R5CCDA)

The new dance season is well underway in most places and it is an opportune time to thank the volunteer treasurers who process our fees.

Thank you to the local **club** treasurers. They collect our fees, fill in forms and send them to the Region 5 treasurer.

Thank you to the **Region 5 Treasurer. Krystal Leason** in Prince George volunteers for this position. She gathers fees from the clubs, fills in more forms and sends them to the BC treasurer.

Thank you to the **BC Square & Round Dance Treasurer. Pat Zeeman** in Victoria volunteers for this position. She gathers fees from the regions, fills in more forms and sends them to the Canadian Society treasurer.

Thank you to the **Canadian Square and Round Dance Society Treasurer. Beth McGifford** from Penticton volunteers for this position. She gathers fees from the provinces, fills in more forms and forwards the correct amounts to the insurance agency so that we can all have our third party liability insurance.

It takes many behind-the-scene volunteers to keep our activity happily humming along. Take time to thank them if you have the chance.

Club Officers,

Please visit the Region 5 website at <http://www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca> to check that your club information is up-to-date and accurate. Remember the information shown there is only as accurate as the information which you send in to nmtturner@telus.net

Mary Anne Turner - R5CCDA President



Halloween Fun with Bert and Mary Poppins

Presidential Ponderings

Halloween has come and gone and I hope it was 'Boo-tiful' for you. The Whirlways danced on Halloween night and many got into the spirit of things with some interesting costume ideas. Next stop - Christmas!

In the last bulletin, I asked for each club to arrange for a person to act as a liaison between the club and the Region 5 Caller, Cuer and Dancer Association. It was an easy job - just to make sure that information from me went to your club or from your club to me. I can report that not one club has contacted me with the name

of such a volunteer. I feel like I am talking to the wind. The lack of support as I try to keep our region informed and in touch is very discouraging!

On another topic, did you know that by visiting our region website often, you can help raise the ranking of the website for anyone looking for square dance information in our region? One of the criteria that Google and other search engines use to rank the search results is *how many times a web page is visited*. So be sure and go to <http://www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca> often. Pop around the site and read lots. The more pages of the website you visit, the better it is for our website's visibility.

There is a page there for your club posters, too. If you wish to have your posters displayed, send them to me as a JPG file or a PDF and I will post them for you.

Also, let me know if there is any other information that you would like to see included on the Region 5 website.

New Dancer Tips

1. Each week, different steps and formations are explored and they build on the steps of previous weeks. Attending on a regular basis will ensure that you don't miss out on any of these building blocks. That equals more fun!

2. Square up quickly. New dancers tend to hold back getting in squares, perhaps waiting to be asked. Other dancers may think you want to sit out and that this is why you do not get up - therefore they will not ask you to dance. If you want to dance, be on the floor within 15 seconds after the music goes on. If you stall around, the sets will be filled and you could be left out.

Editorial Opinion - **Some Love It. Some Hate It. Some Even Forbid it!**

Over the past few years, many callers and cuers have changed from using vinyl records to using digital music on laptops, iphones, minidisk players, etc. As with any new technology, there is a learning curve to navigate and inevitably there are some delays, glitches or computer malfunctions. For the most part, dancers wait patiently through this process although some still can't resist calling out comments such as, "That wouldn't happen if you used records." Perhaps these dancers have forgotten the days of warped records that needed a quarter on the tone arm to keep the record from skipping. Or maybe they don't remember the days of scratchy records and broken needles. Time has passed and those who have been working with digital music are learning to quickly overcome most of the problems. There are now very few delays.

There are certainly advantages and disadvantages to using both types of music and equipment. However, it is the caller/cuer who invests thousands of dollars on the sound equipment and it should be up to the caller or cuer to decide which form to use. Surprisingly, however, there are parts of our province where the clubs have decreed that only vinyl records are allowed at special events! Very discouraging for 'digital' guest callers on a panel. While there is certainly room in our activity for both the turntable and the computer for music, like it or not, digital music is here to stay and there are many reasons why that is a good thing.

First and foremost, new vinyl records are becoming rare and expensive. You can't just walk into a local store and get vinyl square dance music. It is specialized music and callers have to deal with a small number of square and round dance music producers. These producers are now offering most of their available music as MP3 files and many square/round dance 45 rpm releases are out-of-print and no longer available. All *new* music producers offer their music only in digital format. Furthermore, the Hilton company from California, no longer sells new turntables and it has announced that needles are no longer available for many of the turntables that callers are still using.

Second, let's mention music quality. *Scratch, scratch, scratch, scratch* - how often do the dancers hear this as "the needle goes down?" And what about the *scraaaaawtch* as the needle is clumsily taken off? Digital tunes don't wear out and with the new technology, callers can re-record their existing vinyl recordings, take out all the clicks and pops and scratches and remaster them - resulting in better sound for the dancers' enjoyment.

Third, what about the image we are trying to convey to the public? Most already think of square dancing as an activity for old people. We have nothing against records and turntables ourselves, but you must admit that we add to our "old fogey" image when we use record players and 45 rpm records. This technology is so out of style that many homes don't have a record player in them anymore. Dan Prosser, an American caller and member of CallerLab explains, "We promote Modern Western Square Dancing but we introduce our activity to the public with a technology that is 20 years behind the times. As soon as people see a record player and a box of records we have automatically dated our activity to a bygone era. Even though we use a newer style of music the picture is still worth a thousand words."

Finally, callers and cuers are, for the most part, very creative people. They enjoy exploring new music - now so easily available and less expensive with no mail costs - and creating their own singing calls and choreographing new Round Dances to up-to-date music.

Banning or discouraging digital music is like ordering your caller or cuer to try and find, buy, maintain and drive a horse and buggy down the freeway at rush hour. It makes life expensive, difficult and inefficient.

Thank you to the dancers who have shown patience and encouragement to those callers/cuers who are trying to keep up with the times to be able to bring you better sound.

Mark this date on your calendar for a great time with friends.



Join the Stampede Whirlaways for their Christmas Dinner & Dance.

Sat., Dec. 7th, 2013
Child Development Center
690 North 2nd Avenue
Williams Lake

Dinner - 5:30 P.M.
Dancing will follow.
Mainstream and New Dancers

Whirlaway Members -\$5.00
Guests -\$8.00

Donations to the Food Bank Hamper will be most appreciated.



Marie 250-392-5360
mmspringhouse@explornet.ca
Nick 250-392-2432
nmturmer@telus.net

If possible, let us know you are coming so we'll be sure to have the right amount of food available

REGION REFLECTIONS

Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways by Gil McCall

Club members have been deeply saddened in the past few months with the passing of three of our long-time dancers. We pass along our heartfelt condolences to the families of **Dorothy Plante**, **Laurie Riedel** and **George Kroener**. These folks will be fondly remembered by all of us and greatly missed.

Visitors from many parts of the province attended our annual Jamboree in May, celebrating the 55th anniversary of the club and acknowledging caller **Nick Turner** for his 35 years of service. The theme this year was Polynesian Paradise and it was great to see participants really getting into the theme. Even the men looked great in their grass skirts and colorful shirts. But the ladies looked even better! Club president, **Marie Gibbons**, and her husband **Mike**, greeted all the guests and presented them with a shell lei. **Darcy McGifford**, the driver of the minivan that brought guests from the Okanagan, caused much laughter when he arrived with his tropical fruit headpiece and earrings.



As usual, **Mary Anne Turner** headed up the decorating gang... and what a super job they did. The weather outside was somewhat dull and gray and rainy but inside, there were palm trees, tropical birds, colorful flowers and Tiki figures. Our good friend **Al Ritchie** of Rainbow Square Dance Apparel said he was sure he saw Don Ho in the corner of the hall, singing his heart out and enjoying those 'Tiny Bubbles'. This of course proved to be untrue...but you know Al!

The food committee did their usual fine job. In keeping with the theme, on Saturday afternoon they served tropical fruit sundaes as the Tiki Bar was opened. The roast beef dinner was great and ended with Polynesian style dessert.



A highlight of the jamboree was the intermission entertainment on Saturday evening. There were many smiles as the Wacky Haka group entered the hall with fierce faces and loud intimidating chants that soon dissolved into a chorus of Old MacDonald Had a Farm. Following this, was a Polynesian stick routine, a poi ball dance and a surprise hula lesson for the visiting caller.

That caller of course was **Dustin McGifford**, and he did his usual fine job. Dustin said he could become accustomed to the 'warm weather garb'. He chose his music to fit the occasion and the dancing crowd greatly enjoyed his efforts. Thanks again to this young caller...now known to some as 'the Penticton Polynesian'.

Throughout the weekend, dancers were kept hopping to nearly nine hours of dancing by local callers Nick & Mary Anne Turner, guest callers and featured caller Dustin. Thanks, too, to our cuer **Mary Anne Turner**, who finds theme music and writes new Rounds for the occasion. Her Round Dance Social is unique and very much enjoyed.

The 2014 Williams Lake Jamboree will be held May 23, 24 and 25. Please note...it will be at a new location. We have made arrangements to hold the event at the Mountview School on the Dog Creek Road. This will be an excellent venue and for out-of-towners, signs will be posted. There will be plenty of good dry-land parking space. A little sea-gull tells me that the theme will be NAUTICAL. Aye, aye.... we'll keep you posted.

Upcoming events include the annual Christmas Party on Dec. 7th and March Merriment Pie Night on March 1st.

Once again, we are holding sessions for new dancers. Several are turning out. Special thanks to the regular Whirlaway members who attend to help out. Thanks 'angels'! **Christine Jung**, the local programmer from Shaw Cable, has visited the Friday evening starter dances and hopefully her feature will be shown soon on Cable 10.

If you have questions about our club or square dancing in general, please feel free to call our President, Marie Gibbons at 250-392-5360 or Nick and Mary Anne Turner at 250-392-2432.

What do you get when you cross a hula dancer with a boxer??? Well, naturally, you get---Hawaiian Punch!

Prince George Northern Twisters by Julie Skead

We've danced into another season of square and round dancing at the Knox United Church Hall on Brunswick St. from 7 till 9:30 on Mondays. (I see in our history, that the club began in 1957! I was 11 and wish the opportunity to square dance had presented itself to me where I lived.) Anyone traveling in the Prince George area please plan to join us in dance. In the Fall, we were pleased to see dancers from Arizona who had travelled/visited in Alaska and planned to be here to check out our dance night.

Wow! It's great that we have a large enough membership to regularly make 4-6 squares of Beginners, Mainstream (including members of the Vanderhoof club), and Plus Dancers. Thanks go out to dancers for greeting, smiling, and understanding the challenges square and round dance learners face... the 'new' AND the 'new not that long ago'. A warm welcome goes out to those who have joined us and to our regulars. Let's always appreciate those who are able to organize events for us, participate in the decorating committee and set up/contribute to treats/clean up each Monday. Remember to be on the alert for opportunities to promote and recruit square and round dancing and all we gain from it.

Our caller and instructor is **Gys Koops**. He and **Lynn** have been involved with square dancing since 1982 and Gys has been teaching new dancers for 22 years. Gys worked on his skills alongside Caller **Ed England** (passed away in 2004 after 21 years as our club caller), and has been calling regularly since 1990. **Don Hollis** is our regular round dance cuer/instructor. Also, **Don, Dolores Young, Maurice Mingay and Dillon Dawson** often call, cue, or do both.

In April, about 15 ventured out from Prince George for the Vanderhoof club's 10th anniversary supper and dance.

Graduation for 6 new dancers was the end of April. Plus dancers **Pat and Lorne Paulson** kept to tradition by coming with a home-made lovely Graduation cake. It was nice to have them as guests and as fellow dancers. Angels (dangles for badges) were given out for 1 to 18 years, to members who support and guide new dancers. Hey, check out, 'Rock And Roll Pneumonia' and 'The Boogie Woogie Flu', an upbeat tune for basic calls (thanks to Dolores).

In May our dancers were invited back to Gateway Lodge for another demonstration of square dancing, always enjoyed by the seniors there. We also danced once again for the Liard Seniors' Home, and for the Brunswick Seniors' Activity Centre for a birthday tea.

Spring Jamboree in May (our 56th) was delightful. The theme was, 'Somewhere Under The Rainbow, Beyond Hope, Past Hell's Gate, Along The Cariboo Connector To The Pot Of Gold!' Among the 70 dancers were guests from Williams Lake, Quesnel, Vanderhoof, Dawson Creek, and 100 Mile House (including 92 year old **Jim Milliken** who danced up a storm). Many of our local dancers sported the club colors of purple, white, and gold. Besides the privilege of learning from guest caller **Garry Dodds** and cuer **Pat Zeeman** from Victoria, we danced to 10 other callers and cuers. What a great experience! Several dancers earned special badges for square dancing around Mr. P.G, a Prince George figure representing the wood industry, at the junction of Highway 97 and Highway 16.

Thirteen dancers from our club made their way to Williams Lake for the Stampede Whirlaways' Polynesian Paradise Jamboree. Young guest caller, **Dustin McGifford** from Penticton, charmed us and kept us on our toes for sure. Good organization, decorations including murals and props, tropical treats and meals, and well-rehearsed, entertaining floor show acts combined with the camaraderie, will bring us back next year.

Gys and a square of dancers did a demo for the Vanderhoof Fall Fair, then one for the Burns Lake Fall Fair. Getting out and about to dancing opportunities develops friendships, advertises our club, and strengthens confidence, among other benefits.

Many Northern Twisters also dance Fridays or Saturdays to live country rock and/or live old-time fiddle music, and follow the Bluegrass circuit. Some take/coach line dancing. Five couples have started round dancing lessons (2-step) from **Barb and Gary Dean**. (Amazing how I have no choice but to let **Ray** lead when we both hold correct frame!) Some dancers are in bowling leagues, a seniors' choir, lead Christmas sing-a-longs for the public at our Railroad Museum, play crib, whist, floor curl at seniors' centers, play bridge, volunteer at historic sites, train and compete in annual BC Seniors Games...pretty active group!

Don and Reta attended the Senior Summer Games in Kamloops participating in the Whist competition. It was most enjoyable. They held 4th place after the 1st day but, by the time they completed the last game, they were not in the top anymore. They did take all 13 tricks in 1 no trump hand and Don took a picture of it for proof.

Along with **Gervin and Cathy, Don and Reta** square danced in Lacombe at Alberta's 45th Square and Round Dance Convention, from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2. They carried the Northern Twisters' banner in the banner parade. The Lacombe Memorial Center was a beautiful venue. They enjoyed learning new calls and perfecting old ones (maybe!!!).

(PG...continued from Page 4) They had a wide variety of callers and cuers to dance to. (I heard that there were over 200 dancers there, and workshops available for Plus Dancing, Mainstream, and Round Dancing with fun variations.)

Reta spent 10 days in Kelowna with her Dad who will turn 95 Oct 25th. The family is celebrating his birthday Thanksgiving weekend.

Ray and Julie - against all odds! according to most relatives and acquaintances - moved in temporarily to the basement of a house rented by Julie's daughter and her husband and three children. It saves all of us dollars and is temporary hinging on a new house being built on acreage. Are there positive synonyms for 'easy going' and 'laid back' or are there other ones like 'pushover' and 'crazy'?

Gys and Lynn took their 5th wheeler out to Whiskers Point campground on McLeod Lake this summer. Their son and his wife joined them for part of the time. What a gorgeous, tranquil and refreshing spot.

Len and Bonnie returned with lots of positives from a trip to very friendly Nashville with all its sights including the Grand Ole Opry. They spent time in the Memphis area visiting Elvis Presley's mansion and his car museum and planes exhibit and taking a riverboat cruise in New Orleans territory. Ask them for more details if you plan to do such an adventure.

At the A-1weekend in Chase this past summer there were 8 squares. **Glenda Matthews** reports that she, **Audrey and Nick, Gary and Barb Dean, Ken and Cindy Wolfe, Carrie Van De Vosse, Pat and Lorne Paulson** enjoyed the time there.

Thanks to **Nick and Mary-Anne Turner** for their dedication to BC clubs in general and to publishing all club news.

Remember, I submit the information but each member is a reporter. If anyone has something they'd like to see in the next newsletter, input is welcome. Email me at juliamcgowan@gmail.com

South Cariboo by Bill Rose - Jamboree Chairperson

Hello from the South Cariboo Dancers. We have had a very busy and also disheartening year. Our 100 Mile Twirlers have had their final dance season after 60 years of Round and Square Dancing due to lack of members to fill squares. The name is still viable and hopefully someday we will start up again in 100 Mile House.

The Lac La Hache Caribooters are still active and are able to fill two squares for their dances on Mondays starting with Rounds at 1:30 p.m. and Square Dancing at 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Remaining 100 Mile Twirlers have joined up with Lac La Hache to make this happen.

On June 14 -16, 2013 the South Cariboo Square Dance Association held their 57th and final Mainstream Square Dance Jamboree in 108 Mile Ranch, B.C. The support that we received from everyone was phenomenal and allowed us to go out with a Bang. On Saturday evening we had 18 squares on the floor with at least another 30 dancers sitting on the sidelines. Our feature caller, **Murray Few** from Edmonton, tried a new formation called Checkerboard due to the crowded floor. The first square across the floor had HEADS with their backs and facing the caller. The next square had SIDES acting as HEADS. This automatically opened up the dance floor and alleviated the crowded situation.



We were able to recognize people that helped us with our Jamborees through the years - M.C. **Dave Abbs** from Lone Butte, B.C. (This was his 57th Jamboree), Guest Caller **Murray Few** from Edmonton for Saturday afternoon workshops and Saturday evening Mainstream square dancing, Guest Cuer - **Helen Hall** from Lac La Hache for Saturday evening round dancing, Guest Callers - **Nick and Mary Anne Turner** from Williams Lake, B.C. for Saturday morning "Easy Contra". Also recognized was **Bev Abbs** from Lone Butte, B.C for her help with advice and organizing every square dance jamboree. She has worked in the background for all 57 years and her expertise was certainly appreciated.

Again we would like to thank everyone who was involved with all of our jamborees and especially to the dancers who joined us from around the country.

Lac La Hache Caribooters

by Fran Campbell

Lac la Hache Caribooters had their first dance of the new season on Sept. 30, 2013. We were pleased to see **Leonce and Juliette** from Clearwater who drove over for the day.

The Caribooters are also pleased to welcome **Frank McWilliams**, and **Irene and Vic Green** from the 100 Mile Twirlers, to our club.

Our regular dances and parties are on Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

We will be losing some of our dancers as they head south for the winter, they will be missed. We wish them all the best, and look forward to their return.



Here's a great idea for a summer holiday. Ottawa has so many splendid sights to see and all are within walking distance of the Festival venue.

Check out their website for information and registration forms.

Vanderhoof Drifting Squares by Sandi Jespersen

Our dance year ended in mid May (the day before **Bob and Sandi** took off for New Mexico) **Sandi, Bob, Jerita, Terry, Dolores and Steven** attended the Prince George Jamboree in early May. There were old friends to dance with and a review or evaluation for those who had attended the Caller's School the year before. Thanks for the hints and tips.

Sandi, Bob and Dave Riske danced at 108 Mile for their wind up dance. It was good to see so many dancers from around the province and elsewhere turn out. The floor was so packed most evenings that the caller would re-orient the squares so sometimes the heads were as usual and other alternate squares were 90 degrees out. Made for a great brain twister.

In August the Vanderhoof Drifting Squares danced at the Vanderhoof Fall Fair and in September we danced at the Lakes District Fall Fair in Burns Lake. It is nice to show our craft to new areas and we may even get one couple from Burns Lake to join us this year. The hospitality at the Burns Lake Fair was exceptional! They fed early arrivals on the first day, gave us camping and passes for the whole weekend and showed us a good time. A nice small fair that celebrated their 70th year with style!

Our new dance year is now under way and we are usually dancing one square with 2 or 3 people on the side lines to give some of us a rest. Our schedule is that on the first and third Thursdays, **Sandi and Dolores** call or cue (with help from **Jerita** on cues) and on the second and fourth Thursdays, **Gys Koops** takes over and Dolores and Sandi take a turn every now and then. It is going well and we are glad to be dancing every Thursday this year.

Having said that we will not be dancing the last Thursday of Oct. There are many community events (the Annual Pumpkin Walk and Fireworks comes to mind) so we are going to take grandkids and friends, dress up and attend these events.

I would like to welcome **Rachael McCully** to our beginning squares. She is the only beginning dancer we have this year and we hope she can come out often. She has a newborn so it will depend on that. She brought him along the last time and things worked out well.

Wishing speedy recovery to **Erling Clemenson**. He had cataract surgery done on both eyes over the summer. Hoping everything went well and looking forward to seeing him back on the dance floor.

Our Christmas Potluck and Square Dance will be on Dec 12th. Pot Luck will start at 5:45 and after some clean-up, we will do rounds at approx. 6:30 and go from there. We will take a break after this night of dancing and not be back until Jan 9th. Happy 2014 everybody!

I am hoping that people can come out and join us. **Bonnie and Dennis** from Prince George joined us on Oct. 10th and it was good to see them. They are promising to come again for our Hallowe'en dance but it would be great if some others would car pool and join them. We dance Mainstream for squares and Phase 1 and 2 (sometimes sneak in a Phase 3 move) for rounds. Refreshments are always served and we usually wrap up about 9:30.

Region 5 Travellers

Travels with Bob and Sandi by Sandi Jespersen

In May, on Bob's birthday, Sandi, Bob and his parents set off for a month to travel through several western states and onto New Mexico. The first 2 days we travelled to Spokane Washington, spent a few days with Bob's sister Kathy and her husband Joe and then all 6 of us headed through Montana to visit Bob's cousin Lori and then into Nevada. I never want to travel in Nevada again if I don't have to. What a barren and plain place. We stayed in many camp sites but our favourites were Cathedral Gorge, Nevada (I guess I lied a little) with amazing pinnacles in the desert-like setting. Worth the trip for this!

We visited more of Bob's relatives in Lake Havasu City. It sits on a man-made lake and you will find the original London Bridge here over a man-made river. Not very exciting really. We travelled as much as I could talk Bob into motoring along Route 66 - one of my childhood memories from black and white TV.

The highlight of the trip was to be the north rim of the Grand Canyon but because of a bridge washout, we decided we would just take our memories of south rim with us. It was spectacular! The temp was not too high (65F) and we spent a long day walking and taking hundreds of pictures. (Later in the trip the temp would settle at about 95F+ for a week and without adequate air conditioning..... The days of the cool temp in the Grand Canyon were a distant memory.)

The southernmost tip of our trip was Albuquerque New Mexico. We visited the Natural History Museum with dinosaurs and many semi-precious gems on display.

We headed north for home on the 27th of May through Utah, Oregon. The border crossing was uneventful and we set off for home 28 days after the start of our trip.

On our trip we passed through countless canyon and desert areas. The scenery was dry but delightful. All of us are geologists at heart so it was a splendid trip. A mite hot at times, 3 flat tires and one dead battery but we all enjoyed it. I'm not a fan of heat so I will stay back next time. I would not bore you with the 1700 pictures I took..... but they will make a great photo album one day. Maybe I can pare it down to 100 or so!

In August we decided to take one more trip in the motor home. We left after the Vanderhoof Fall Fair and headed west to Prince Rupert. We attended the Bulkley Valley Fall fair in Smithers. Bob enjoyed the rows of antique

tractors and I marveled at the animal displays. They had great live entertainment.

After our time at the Fair, we headed to Terrace to visit with **Diane and Art Weismiller**. They had a banner that they were no longer using in their club and we picked it up. We stayed at Ferry Island Municipal Campground and had a wonderful time. Saturday we spent a long while visiting the huge farmer's market and had Philippine food.

Back at the campground, in the trees near our camping spot, there are scores of little carvings in the bark of the trees (eye level, 4 - 6" tall). We trekked around for 3 hours and found more than 60 faces, a few houses and a few other wonderful carvings done over the past 10 or more years. It makes for a wonderful treasure hunt for all ages.

From Terrace we headed to Prince Rupert but camped in Port Edward. The time in Rupert was really nice and relaxing. The first day was sunny and breezy and second day was wetter but we still enjoyed our time. Of course we couldn't pass up a fresh fish dinner in downtown Cow Bay, Rupert! We went down past Port Edward and visited the restored North Pacific Cannery on our second day and had a wonderful salmon chowder lunch.

Back in Rupert that night we had Vietnamese food that was amazing! Actually we had some really good food at all the places we travelled this summer. The return trip was slow and rainy. We stayed in Lake Tyee Provincial Park and enjoyed the quiet space. Back home to our regular routines, but this summer was a great year to travel and visit with many new and old friends.



*Christmas Greetings To All
B.C. Dancers, Callers, Cuers.*

*Have a Happy Time Dancing in 2014
From Your BCS&RD Federation Executive*

*Norm, John, Ken, Pat, Allen, Gord, Brian,
Connie, Al, Beth, Darcy & Phil.*



Tour of Atlantic Canada and Newfoundland

by Stephen Adams *Vanderhoof Drifting Squares*

I had a lovely 15 day trip with Nagel Tours. We arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Sept. 11th for a welcome reception. The trip covered such places as Peggy's Cove, The Citadel, Pier 21, The Anne Murray Museum, Hopewell Cape, and also Fredericton, New Brunswick .

We crossed the Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island. (You can get there for free but you have to pay to leave the island.) We saw the Anne of Green Gables house.

On Day 7 of the trip we took the 1 1/4 hour ferry ride back to Nova Scotia and visited The Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck, and Rita McNeil's Tea House at Big Pond. I tried a cup of tea - nicest tea I had ever had! We also toured the Fortress of Louisbourg with characters dressed in authentic period costumes.

Day 10 was a 6 hour ferry crossing to Newfoundland where we visited Gros Morne, Gander Airport and Cape Bonavista.

One evening we had a Screech-in Ceremony. A fellow went over it and explained things and 6 volunteers represented the group for the swearing in. They got to kiss the cod and every body got to taste the screech. Thus we were made honorary Newfoundlanders. Afterwards I figured since I was made one, I should complete the ceremony, so I kissed the cod. (That's the picture to prove it!)



We also visited the Trans Atlantic Cable Site and Cape Spear - the easternmost point in North America.

We toured St. John's on our final morning and after an afternoon off, had a farewell evening dinner. On Sept 25th, we boarded the plane for home but I got off in Toronto to visit my younger brother, and was home in Vanderhoof on October 6th.

Travelling in Africa by Denise Johnson *Lac La Hache Caribooters*



In May 2013 my longtime friend Penny and I spent 3 weeks travelling through South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Botswana. By day we rode in a 9 passenger, open air jeep and by night we were on the Tourist Train "Shongololo". The train took us through the country side so that in the morning we awoke in a new location to explore by jeep. The jeeps were on board a flatdeck and

travelled with us. We searched several National Parks and Game Farms looking for the Big Five - the lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and hippo. When the dust settled we had seen all except the elusive leopard. During our Big Five search we also viewed many other different creatures: many species of birds, crocodiles, baboons, monkeys, warthogs, zebras, giraffes, hyenas, wildebeest, impalas, kudus, nyalla, cape buffalo, and mongoose.



Besides hunting animals with our cameras, we also took a helicopter ride over spectacular Victoria Falls in Zambia. We were a 5 minute walk from our hotel to the famous falls and we walked often along the river path to various viewpoints. The last thing at night and the first thing in the morning that we heard was the thunderous roar of that magnificent waterfall.



We spent a day in Swaziland learning about the Zulus' ancient lifestyle and customs. We also spent time at the Swaziland National Museum and at an open air market where the locals sold *EVERYTHING*.

Another day was spent investigating various religions including a Catholic Monastery, a Mosque, Mahatma Gandhi's Phoenix Settlement, a Hindu Temple and the Hare Krishna Temple. In each place a guide showed us around and informed us about their beliefs.

Other highlights of our journey were visits to a Jackass Penguin colony, an Ostrich farm, the Big Hole Diamond Mine in Kimberly, Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope (the most South-West point of Africa), Table Mountain at Cape Town, and the daily "Cannon Salute" at noon.

We had several cruises on various rivers to get closer to the hippos and crocs, and to enjoy the brilliant sunsets.

I view this exciting and eventful trip as one of the best I have taken. I was glad that Penny and I could share these precious memories together.

Happy trails to all.



Square Dancing in Japan

By Anne Christie & Betz Ratch (*Williams Lake*)



Yes, square dancing in Japan is alive and vibrant with over 500 clubs. Square dancing was introduced in Nagasaki, Japan in 1946 by Winfield Niblo, who was working as an education officer for the American occupation forces. It was received enthusiastically and has been growing ever since, aided by the early endorsement of Japan's royal family.

Betz and I travelled to Japan in early July to attend a square dance jamboree and visit with Betz's Japanese friends. We were met at the Narita airport by Betz's friend Kazuto who took us to the Shimura Square Dance Party on the western outskirts of Tokyo the next day. It was in a beautiful big hall with around 300 dancers, and was very hot and humid. They had portable fans stationed around the hall, and we learned to use our paddle fans constantly. The dancers were skilled, energetic and graceful, and were all dressed in colorful traditional western square dance outfits. The Shimura Square Dance Club was very hospitable and helpful. The square dance calls were in English but the callers were all Japanese and some were much easier to understand than others. After the dance we had a fun evening at an Izakaya (Japanese pub-style eatery) where we sat on the floor on tatami mats and sampled many new foods including lotus root and skate fin. The beer was good! Kam-pai!

We spent another day in Tokyo touring Senso-ji temple complex, cruising on the Sumida River and watching an incredible lightening and rain storm in Ueno Park. Then we travelled to Nakano (north of Nagano) and stayed with Kazuto and family. His house has been the ancestral family home for 160 years and is a traditional style with a thick thatched roof. They took us to see the snow monkeys cavorting in hot springs and to Matsumoto Castle.

We attended the 35th Nagano Apple Squares Shiga Summer Jamboree, in the Shiga Highlands north of Nagano, where several events were held during the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics. The area consists of 21 linked ski areas and we drove to the top of the mountain to see the beautiful views and the wild orange daylilies. Betz enjoyed visiting with Nagano Apple Square members who she had met on previous visits. This was Anne's first visit to Japan and because she has only been dancing for one year, it was difficult at first but everyone was very helpful and accommodating. We loved seeing all the colorful and creative dance outfits, and admired the graceful round dancers. **Jerry Story**, from Iowa, and **Mac O'Jima**, from Sendai, Japan, and the other guest callers created a lively and fun jamboree, and we really enjoyed ourselves. As the only other English speakers, we ate all our meals with Jerry Story and were interested to learn more about his travels as a caller to Taiwan, England, Canada and Germany, as well as three trips to Japan this year.

A favourite highlight was our participation in the ceremonial lighting of the campfire followed by singing, folk dancing, square dancing, fireworks and sparklers. It was truly magical! The rest of the evening was also great fun with lively parties and great cheer.

The remainder of our holiday was in Kyoto to see the Gion Matsuri Festival and Parade, and tour the many historic temples, shrines and beautiful gardens. We spent one day in Nara and really admired the giant Buddha.

Square dancing was definitely a good way to have fun, meet lots of people and learn some Japanese. We found the Japanese to be extremely gracious and hospitable and they were constantly taking our picture, giving us gifts and buying our meals. They also stopped to help if we looked lost, which was a good thing because we did take the wrong train on our fourth day, and travelled an hour in the wrong direction!

Be sure your club has a publicity person. There are often many opportunities to publicize square dance fun. Take advantage of them! Keep square dancing front and center all year long, not just at New Dancer time !



Bits n' Pieces

What do Breathalyzers and a Dog in a Tuxedo Have in Common?

by Helen Hall *Lac La Hache*

This past summer was a busy and event-filled one for Henry and I. Our youngest grandson, Sean and his partner, Jaymee asked if they could have their outdoor wedding on our property in Lac La Hache. The theme for the wedding was to be a *beach setting*. We were pleased to be asked and since we have 4 acres of *rustic property*, we hoped we had enough room to accommodate the 90 guests and family and vehicles.

Three days before the wedding, family members and children, along with their dogs, started to arrive. First, 3 large tents were set up to host the catered dinner for the guests. A wooden dance floor was laid in the largest tent. Next, all the colored lights were set up inside the tent along with all the beautiful decorations. Outside in the grounds, many more lights were stretched between the trees and strung through all the lilac bushes around the seating area for the ceremony. Disbursed in different areas around the grounds were games to entertain all ages of guests - lawn bowling, lawn darts, bean toss baseball etc. and a *Bar*. When all the guests were assembled we had 90 adults, 6 children (ages 3 to 15) and 7 dogs.

Although the theme was *beach*, the bride and party were in traditional formal dress, along with their small dog Jovie, who wore a miniature tuxedo. The wedding proceeded in the bright sunshine and went off without a hitch. About an hour later we could see a large black cloud heading our way and sure enough, we got a dump of rain along with a few thunder rumbles. It slowed down the outdoor activities, but all the adults retired to the tents to continue the festivities. We had to round up all the dogs (especially the ones who *freakout* when they hear thunder) and put them in our basement rec room to bark and console one another. We turned on the TV upstairs for the children to watch.

During the dinner and dance, our daughter Michelle, who is with the RCMP, had asked Sean and Jaymee if she could bring her Breathalyzer to show how it works. This was entirely on a volunteer basis, and nobody had to feel they had done anything wrong. Most people have no idea just how much liquor affects their system and what they would read after drinking. Guests kept their breathalyzers and came back to check what their readings were before they had eaten, and then again after, just to see what difference it made. It was an *eye opener* for everyone, as most of us had never had to take a test *officially*. Michelle was kept busy with guests coming for checks throughout the entire evening. Everyone thought this was a great way to let people find out what their readings would be without any dire consequences.

The festivities were over about 1 a.m. and the guests retired to their different lodgings. Once again silence reigned in the Cariboo. By the way, we already had arranged designated drivers for our guests, but only had to use one.

Reflections from a Beginning Square Dance Caller

by Sandi Jespersen

I attended the PG Jamboree in May 2012 and also the Caller's School. I was overwhelmed! Attending the Caller's School does not a caller make!

There were 10 of us attending and we all came in with different levels of ability. I had called Contra Dance for a few years so I thought I'd have something to draw from. That has almost been true.

I promised myself I would try this (with some earnest) and give it 4 or 5 years. I am only semi-retired so I have some time each week to work on this.

It has now been 1 year and I feel I'm starting to get a toe hold. I don't know if I will ever be a sight caller but maybe that will be okay. I've given up on singing calls for the moment and that seems to make things better. I will continue.

I like calling more because I want to make our club continue and so it doesn't fall apart. I appreciate the support that the club gives me and that makes it a bit easier. I use the same music over and over, and now that the new music is harder to find (I'm not into technological downloaded music) newer music will be a challenge.

I appreciate all the support that you give me and other new callers. Remember we were once just dancers and now we are up at the front doing our best. We like what we do, but it is something new..... and we keep trying. Good luck to the new callers and let's hope we continue to keep our networking going.

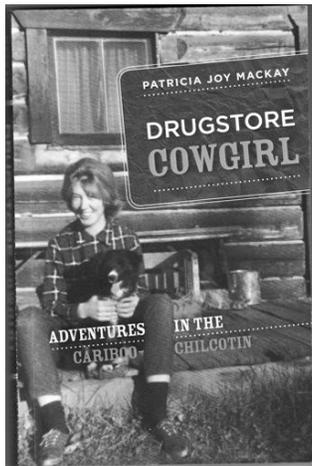
Press Release Photo Tip

Try to elevate the camera by standing on a ladder, chair, stage, etc. If the subjects are looking up at you, there will be a better chance of them being seen without another head blocking them. Furthermore, the camera flash will not reflect straight off people's eyeglasses.



An Author in our Midst

Congratulations to Region 5 dancer, **Patricia MacKay**, (Williams Lake) who has just had her book published. The book is called **Drugstore Cowgirl** and it is available at The Open Book



store in Williams Lake, in various bookstores around BC and also on Amazon. Although the book is finished, Pat is now caught up in a whirlwind of traveling to book launches and book signings around the province.

The book tells the tale of Pat's adventures when she emigrated to Canada from England. She was hoping to experience 'life on the range' but instead became a guest ranch cook and lived the cowgirl's life vicariously - though she did learn to ride. Lots of tales about Cariboo and Chilcotin characters and events, early days of Square Dancing in our Region and a glimpse of a lifestyle now gone. A darn good read.

A Talented Artist

Congratulations to Region 5 dancer, Kathryn Steen (Williams Lake). Kathryn is an artist and in October some of her wonderful paintings were displayed in the Williams Lake Station House Gallery.

Kathryn, along with other artist friends, has spent 4 years or more traveling around the Cariboo-Chilcotin sketching and seeking ideas for her paintings.

The search was certainly worth it, for visitors to the gallery this month greatly enjoyed the soft colours of her terrific grassland scenes. In fact, several of the paintings were sporting Sold signs. Well done, Kathryn!

FOUR NIGHTS OF NON-STOP DANCING (with daytime treats as well!)

We've written about the Penticton Jamboree several times for the Connection but all dancers owe themselves at least one chance to experience this unique-in-B.C. event.

Mainstream dancing starts on Wednesday evening and the format is the same for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The two-part Tips are shared with one Caller doing a patter and one a singer followed immediately by a Round Dance Cuer with a Phase II Two Step or Waltz. Right afterwards another caller is introduced for a patter followed by a different caller for the singer and a different Cuer.

It's non-stop dancing to a variety of over 20 - 30 callers and cuers from B.C., Alberta, Washington and Oregon. Special treats come from the B.C. Boys and Penticton's Own - two caller groups who harmonize together producing great energy for the evening. Choose to come for just one, two, three or all four days. The hall is air-conditioned, the sound is great.

There is a Friday afternoon Teen dance, a Saturday afternoon Plus dance to a panel of callers and a separate afternoon for a Round Dance with Phase 2, 3 and 4 dances. Don't forget to dance in Okanagan Lake and earn the much-coveted Aquaducks badge.

Tons of things to do in Penticton and the surrounding area: go paragliding or paddle boarding or just relax on the beach. Check out the Farmers' Market on Saturday morning - fruit, veg and crafts by the ton. Take any of several wine tours in the area. Check out the Casino.

There are several camp grounds and plenty of hotels - but **book early** to be sure of a place to stay.

Mary Anne and I have been going to this event for over 20 years and we'd love to see more Region 5 dancers there.

The dates for this year are August 6-9, 2014. Registration forms will be on the Federation website at: <http://www.squaredance.bc.ca>

KAMLOOPS SQUARE DANCERS
SWEETHEART SWING

Saturday February 15th / 2014
At
St. Paul's Cathedral 360 Nicola St. & 4th Ave

Caller :Jerry Jestin Cuer:Wendy Winterhalder

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

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

FMI Contact
Ross Kerr 250-376-5999 rosskerr@shaw.ca
John Kempel 250-376-1787 jkempel@shaw.ca
Dancers room rate Sandman Inn \$59.00 + tax
Bob Silversen Email bob_silversen@telus.net



REGION 5 DANCE SCHEDULE 2013/2014

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

WHEN	WHERE	EVENT	CALLERS/ CUERS
Nov. 23, 2013	Prince George	Snowflake Dance	Ken Sipe
Dec. 7, 2013	Williams Lake	Christmas Dinner and Dance	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Dec. 9, 2013	Prince George	Christmas Dinner and Dance	Gys Koops
Dec. 9, 2013	Lac La Hache	Christmas Dance followed by Potluck	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Dec. 12, 2013	Vanderhoof	Christmas Potluck and Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Dec. 31, 2013	Lac La Hache	Afternoon Dance followed by Potluck	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Jan. 25, 2014	Prince George	Robbie Burns Dance	Ray Brendzy
Feb. 10, 2014	Lac La Hache	Caribooter's Valentine Dance	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Feb. 23, 2014	South Cariboo	My Tie Dance	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Feb. 24, 2014	Prince George	50s and 60s Dance	Gys Koops
Mar. 1, 2014	Williams Lake	March Merriment & Pie Night Dance	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Mar. 17, 2014	Lac La Hache	St. Patrick's Day Dance Party	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Mar. 31, 2014	Prince George	Goofer's Night	Goofer Callers
Apr. 28, 2014	Lac La Hache	Thank God It's Spring Dance	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
May 23-25, 2014	Williams Lake	56th Spring Jamboree - Let's Get Nautical Theme	Dustin McGifford, Nick and Mary Anne Turner
June 6-8, 2014	Prince George	Spring Jamboree Weekend	Jerry Jestin
July 17-19, 2014	Ottawa	Canadian National Festival	Many Callers & Cuers
August 6-9, 2014	Pentiction	11th Peachfest Jamboree	Many Callers & Cuers

DO YOU NEED MORE COPIES OF THE CARIBOO CONNECTION ?

If you need more copies of the Cariboo Connection, it will be available on the internet so that you can read it there or you can print more copies for yourself and others. To find the most recent copy of the Cariboo Connection Newsletter go to the website of the R5CCDA at www.r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca

If you are interested in purchasing a Hilton 201 turntable and/or square dance records, contact Ab McQuillen at dngchef@shaw.ca He says he is down-sizing and is willing to part with these items for a very reasonable price.

If you wish to submit an article to the Cariboo Connection, contact us at nmtturner@telus.net The deadline date for the February issue is **January 18, 2014.**

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