



Round Dance News

For several years now, round dance cuers have been hoping that a name would be given to the following group of steps.....

Pickup.. Scissors to Sidecar; walk out 2; scissors to banjo; walk in 2;

At this year's Roundalab convention, the name **Traveling Scissors** was approved as an amalgamated cueing term for the above group of steps.

Cuers, be sure to alert your dancers to this change.

One More Way to Build an Awareness of Square Dancing

If your local newspaper has a *Roses and Raspberries* column or something of a similar nature - you might use it as another opportunity to make people aware of square dancing in your community.

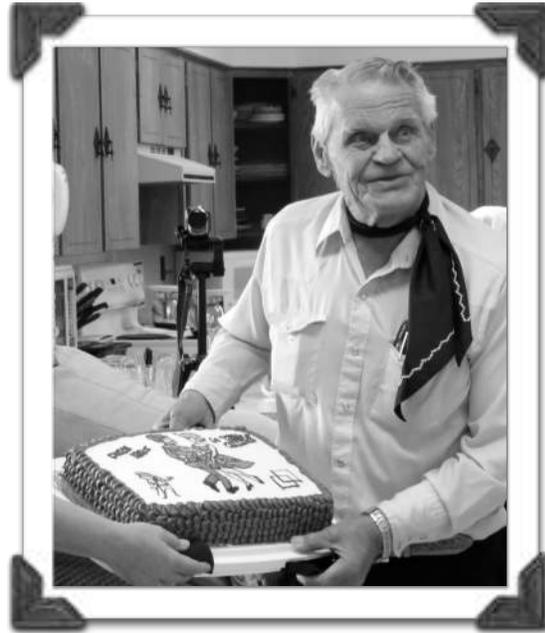
Comments could include thoughts such as;

Thank you to (name of hotel) for the great welcome you gave to the square dancers who attended our recent weekend Jamboree.

or

Thanks to the (name of club) for sponsoring a fun dance event last weekend.

Region 5 Congratulates Dave Abbs of the South Cariboo



At the end of last season, dancers gathered at Lac La Hache for a very special event. It was to extend congratulations to caller, **Dave Abbs**, for **60** years of square dance calling. What an amazing record and can you imagine how many dancers he must have called to? Appreciation was also expressed to **Bev Abbs**. The support and encouragement that a partner gives surely contributes to a caller's success. *(Read more in the Lac La Hache report on page 5.)*



REGION REFLECTIONS

Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways by Gil McCall

Yet another dancing season is well underway. Thanks to those from many areas of B.C. who attended our Jamboree in May. The NAUTICAL theme made for lots of sea-farin' fun. Preparations are well under way for our next Jamboree and the theme will be JOLLY OLD ENGLAND...and for sure there will be a hearty roast beef dinner. We might even have a high tea and a double decker bus! The possibilities are endless and they are being worked on now. I'm personally hoping the committee will set up a good old English pub!

The Whirlaways are delighted with the turnout of beginners this year. There are two squares of 'newbies' this time around and they are having a ball and progressing rapidly. I spoke with one of them, **Tina Derksen**, who along with hubby **John** is having a blast. As is often the case, Tina was enthusiastic from the start, but John was somewhat reluctant and apprehensive. After the first night, John decided this was not that tough after all and that indeed he could dance. As caller **Wally Sanderson** said many years ago, "Just use your hands and the feet will follow." Tina told me they heard about the sessions from **Madge Struthers** who is a fellow volunteer at the Seniors' Center. The Derksens say it is excellent exercise for the body and the brain. They also say they were surprised it is much, much more than fiddles and banjos and are very pleased with the great variety of the music.

President **Marie Gibbons**, along with **Nick** and **Mary Anne**, want to thank the many Mainstream dancers who have shown up at the new dancer's sessions. It is much appreciated.

Our club was pleased to participate at the Fall Fair this summer. We took turns manning a booth and were able to meet and greet many potential dancers. During my shift, I was pleased to hear that so many of the booth visitors had a pretty fair knowledge of square dancing and indeed, many of them had some practical experience, either at school or through relatives.

Whirlaway members did a lot of traveling this past summer. As for Madge and I, we attended both the Canadian Senior games at Sherwood Park, Alberta and the B.C. Senior games in Langley. The floor curling team, skipped by our very own **Ellen Wiege**, took bronze at the Canadian games. Other members of the team are **Lil Langstrom**, **Greta Bowser** and **Madge Struthers**. We were all amazed at the amount of construction and general

activity in the area. Sherwood Park is adjacent to Edmonton's eastern edge and boasts a population of about 90,000.

After the Alberta adventure, it was off to Langley for the B.C. games. The gals failed to medal in that event...BUT, another of our club members, **Pat Harton** won GOLD in the Power-Walk event. This was Pat's first appearance at the games and he hit the big one. Way to go !!

We discovered that Alberta is not all oil and gas. No sir, dadburnit, the good old family farm is still prevalent. On one of these somewhat remote farms, Sonny and Gramps live together - just the two of them. One day, Gramps was in the house while Sonny was busy whittling on the porch. Suddenly, the youngster heard a motor going and someone driving the truck away. Sonny rushed into the house and yelled, "Hey Gramps, somebody just stole your truck." Gramps says, "Well boy, did you sees who it was?" Sonny replied, "No grandpa, but I got the license number!"

The Whirlaways wish all in Region 5 a good dancing season. Come and join us on Thursdays at the Child Development Centre on 2nd Avenue: Rounds 'teach' at 7:00 - 7:30 p.m, Mainstream Squares from 7:30 - 9:30.

**a beary special
HOLIDAY NOTE**



**Please join the
Stampede Whirlaways
for their
Christmas
Dinner & Dance.**

Marie 250-392-5360
mmspringhouse@xplornet.ca

Nick Turner 250-392-2432
nmturner@telus.net

**Sat., Dec. 13th,
2014**

Child Development Center
690 North 2nd Avenue
Williams Lake

Dinner at 6:00 PM
Dancing will follow

**Mainstream
&
New Dancers**

Whirlaway Members
\$5.00

Guests
\$8.00

**Donations to the Food
Bank Hamper will be
most appreciated.**

*(If possible, let us know you
are coming so we can be
sure to have the right
amount of food available.)*

Prince George Northern Twisters by Julie Skead

Our executive for this new season includes: **Dolores Young**-President, **Don Hollis**-Vice President, **Julie Skead**-Secretary, **Doreen Arnott**-Treasurer, **Len Wilnechenko**-Assistant Treasurer. We sure appreciate the time and dedication of volunteers. An ongoing thank you goes out to those who help with chairs, snacks, coffee, and hall clean-up each Monday and to those who take care of special dance theme decorations. We also appreciate the **Cockers** for posters and flyers, and **Krystal** for her part assuring local advertising.

Each Monday evening we share our smiles and camaraderie with 5 squares of Mainstream and Plus dancers, and both beginners and experienced Round dancers - also sharing exercise for the mind and body! We welcome three members returning to square dancing from years away, and eight new dancers. Those angels dangling on our name badges mean we understand how overwhelming learning from scratch is and that we hope to be of assistance, knowing that we still need help ourselves.

We don't take for granted our caller and instructor, **Gys Koops** nor **Don Hollis**, **Dolores Young** and **Maurice Mingay** who do some calling. Don is also our Round Dance cuer (and coach!) with Dolores stepping in now and then. Don has put the word out that he is interested in teaching advanced Round Dancing on Saturdays.

Five from our club were able to get to Vanderhoof for their wind up potluck dinner in May. The decorations at our (June) 'Dancing In The Stars' Jamboree added sparkle to the smiles and energy of dancers from 18 to near 90.



Many took part in square dancing around Mr. P.G., a tradition that turns heads at the intersection of Highways 97 and 16. It's great when members from some other clubs take time to include us as a stop on their holidays.

A number of our members traveled to Penticton for holidays and took in the 4 day Festival there. Fewer took in the Williams Lake Jamboree this year but many, after positive experiences last year, expressed their disappointment that they had



conflicting plans. So disappointing to miss out on such a well-organized and friendly event.

Two of our couples and Gys Koops joined the Vanderhoof Drifting Squares in August for demonstration square

dancing at the Vanderhoof Fall Fair. Also, our caller, Gys Koops was interviewed by CBC Radio. We got feedback from another part of the province so the word got out. Shaw TV has filmed a dance night and put a video segment with a member interview on the local channel.

We'd like to express our sympathies to the families of **Eugene Nesbit**. Eugene passed away in September after bravely fighting some long term issues. Eugene was born in 1929. He retired in 1994 from BC Rail. Eugene was the club photographer for several years. He was dedicated to various past times besides square dancing, including intricate woodcarving. His sense of humor, his advice from numerous experiences and his knowledge, were appreciated by those who associated with him. Eugene and Myrtle and daughter, Lyn are members of our Prince George club. Eugene and Myrtle square danced and round danced for many years with another club before being with Northern Twisters for over 25 years.

Our members were invited to do a square dancing demo at a Saturday night country dance at Brunswick Seniors' Centre, and one at the Hart Senior Centre in October plus a Seniors' Birthday Tea. Those are good places to promote our dancing for sure in front of people ages about 35 to 90, many of who country dance all the time. (Many of our members do both. Some also take Ballroom, Two Step, and Line Dancing.) Parkside Care Home is also on the agenda.

Congratulations **Penny Brawn** ! She finally retired from working over 28 years in Sterile Processing. Penny started managing the department in Seven Oaks Hospital, Winnipeg for 4 years prior to moving to BC. There she took on a bigger role as a manager of two, then four, then five departments for Fraser Health. She then moved to Northern Health as a regional position but still with Sterile Processing, making sure instruments for surgeries were sterilized correctly and Policies and Procedures were in place etc. Prior to this her career started as an OR nurse in the UK! Penny also began teaching the Sterile Processing Course for Vancouver Community College for 11 years or more in Fraser Health and then she set that course up here in Prince George through CNC.

PG continued from page 3

So retirement began the end of May 2014 with a beautiful cruise to Alaska, visiting Glacier Bay, Juneau and Ketchikan. **Dennis** and Penny also went to a family wedding in southern Alberta, traveling back through Drumheller. They ended the summer with another trip to Penticton for the Peachfest Square Dancing and then traveling on down through the Kootenays to complete the trip.

Cris MacDonald was again one of Prince George's representatives in Track and Field at the annual BC Senior Games held in Langley this summer. The results of her fitness, practice, and determination were: Long jump - gold, triple jump - gold, 200 m run - gold, 400 m run - gold, silver in hammer and in weights and bronze in 800m run, 100m dash and discus. *(We're proud of Cris, and are interested in activities other dancers take part in as well. Just let us know so we can know you better... and compliment you!)*

Cris also reports wonderful experiences on Vancouver Island including Tofino, with a close friend and extended families, and her admiration for down-to-earth people dedicated to helping others above and beyond 'basic'.

Wolfgang and **Trudy** recently 'tied the knot', having a lovely wedding then going to Las Vegas. We are happy to see them happy in this new chapter of their lives.

Randy England shared with us that his mom, **Norma**, a Lifetime Member of our club, is now living in a seniors' residence in Kelowna, close to her daughter. All seems to be going well.

Ben and **Carol** renewed family connections in Vancouver then enjoyed another Caribbean cruise.

Maurice, **Gervin**, and **Ray** are busy in a seniors' centre choir, with rehearsals for public Pirate-Sea Songs shows and for Christmas season performances. Ray turned 80 in September. When we see how healthy he is/looks we wonder what portion of that is due to genes, square dancing, bucking up trees for firewood, singing with his guitar, running the mini train for the Railroad Museum, taking grandchildren fishing with his rowboat, not smoking or drinking, eating several small meals a day... seldom meat, drinking 2 or 3 liters of water a day, and taking supplements including apple cider vinegar and a (swampy) green drink!

I (**Julie**) took in another Elvis Festival in Penticton at the end of June, along with 3 friends. It's not an easy 'sell' (about 20 Elvis tribute Artists) but trust me, the acting and singing skills are to be admired and featured guests are world class winners.

For our upcoming dances, check the schedule on the back page, our posters, and also our webpage at

<http://www.northerntwisters.ca>

*A reminder to all members to watch for opportunities to bring acquaintances and family to observe square dancing and round dancing, perhaps planting the seed to join us next Fall.

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

Northern Twisters



Robbie Burns Supper & Dance



Saturday, January 24, 2015

Caller/Cuer: Ray Brendzy

Afternoon Dance	1:00-3:00 pm	\$6.00
Roast Beef Supper	6:00 pm	\$12.00

(Please bring your own plates and cutlery)

Rounds	7:30 pm	
Mainstream	8:00 - 10:00 pm	\$15.00

Knox United Church **Contact: Gys 250-964-4851**
1448 5th Avenue, P.G. **Billeting: Contact Reta at 250 962 2740**

Web page: www.northerntwisters.ca



All Day Package:
\$25.00



Lac La Hache Caribooters by Bill Rose

The Lac La Hache Caribooters began the 2014/2015 season on September 29th at the O.A.P. Hall in Lac La Hache. Round Dancing was at 1:30 p.m. with **Helen Hall** cueing and Square Dancing was from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with **Dave Abbs** calling. Enough members were present for two squares. Hopefully we can keep this up throughout the season. If anyone is in the area on a Monday (except holidays) please feel to drop in to join us. Pre-Rounds are at 1:30 p.m. and Squares are from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. We look forward to your participation.



Helen and Henry Hall were also recognized with a gift card and a framed photo of the dancers - as well as a metal-art sign for their gate engraved with their names - to thank them for all

of the time that they have spent preparing, teaching and cueing Rounds.

Denise Johnson was presented a photo of the group along with a signed farewell card as she has decided to move to Victoria to live with her girl friend and husband. She will be able to dance every day of the week there if she wants, as there are several Square and Round dance clubs in Victoria. We wish her the best of luck in her move.

A wonderful dinner followed the presentations, supplied and prepared by the ladies of the Caribooters' club. What an enjoyable afternoon!

On May 20th we danced from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Carefree Manor in 100 Mile House followed by tea, coffee and a variety of sweets. Three of our members are residents of carefree manor. Sadly we did not get cinnamon buns this time as the cook was on vacation!



Now - back to last season: we celebrated a special occasion on May 26th. The Caribooters were joined by dancers from Vernon, Surrey and Williams Lake to make a

total of fifty-three dancers at our regular Monday afternoon dance to celebrate **Dave Abbs's 60 years of calling**. He started in 1954, calling with his dad. The club presented Dave and wife, Bev, a signed gift card and also gave Dave a clock surrounded by a rubber tire. The poem with it referred to the fact that he spent a lot of time calling squares and covered a lot of miles on the rubber doing the job that he so loves. The club also presented Dave and Bev a framed photo of the dancers plus a metal-art sign for their gate with names engraved.



Norm Cox, President of the B.C. Square & Round Dance Federation presented Dave with a 60 Year Recognition Certificate from the Federation and also a 60 Year Recognition Certificate on behalf of the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society. (Norm had attended the Williams Lake

Jamboree on the previous weekend and stayed over to make this presentation.)

South Cariboo Square Dance Association Christmas Party

December 8, 2014





Lac La Hache Senior Centre
4822 Clarke Ave.

Pre Rounds 1:30 pm
Mainstream & New Dancers 2:00 pm
\$6.00 Per Person
Pot Luck Supper 5:00 pm

Contact: Kai 250 - 791 - 5503





Vanderhoof Drifting Squares by Sandi Jespersion

Well, we are up and running again but not as we would like. We are struggling this year to keep our square on the floor. So far we have danced every week and we have had a few new dancers but one will be with us for only 8 weeks (he's part of a home schooling programme) and we have had medical issues and late fall farming and ranching.

Back to Spring.....

Several of us danced at the Prince George Jamboree in June. Caller **Jerry Jestin** put on quite a show and the dancing was fast and furious. Thanks to the PG organizers for all of their hard work. **Sandi** and **Dolores** called on the Friday evening and enjoyed the compliments.

Speaking of hard work.... thanks to **Mary Anne** and **Nick Turner** (and your committees, too) for all of your work. The Jamboree in Williams Lake was outstanding!!! Decorations, food and dances that all fit the theme of an ocean cruise. We may never get to go on a cruise but we had fun. **Sandi** called on the Sunday morning and learned a lot from that experience. We all hope to attend next year. Wonder what the theme will be then????

Our club danced at the Vanderhoof Fall Fair - twice! There were 16 of us dancing!!!! Thanks to PG dancers for filling in our square so that we could dance with two alternating squares and keep the audience entertained without breaks. And thanks to **Gys Koops** for calling. **Sandi** and **Dolores** did a tip each and that added to the variety.

And now we are into the beginning of another dance year. We have 14 members and our new members are **Derek Penner** (age 10) and **Norman VanVlissingner** - who has danced many years ago and is fitting into our club very well. We had a visitor on Oct.16. We were short of dancers so **Laura** texted a friend (who had never danced) and asked her to join us. She said, "Sure!" and came over. **Debra Brown** danced every square and had a great time. She is definitely considering come back and joining us all year. She had that much fun. It just goes to show you..... once they come through the door... they probably will come back. We also had two young girls - **Jessica Brown** and **Anessa Penner** - join us the night before their school had an extra long Thanksgiving weekend. They learned a great deal and would like to dance with us - but because we dance on a regular school night, they might be back only once or twice this year.

Our special dances this year will be: Oct 30 - Halloween Dance (regular); November 13 (proposed date) - dance at the extended care unit in Vanderhoof; December 11- Christmas Dance and Pot luck starting at 5:30, Rounds (6:30) and Squares at 7:00; no dancing Dec 18 to January 1 inclusive. Back to dancing Jan 8th. February 12 - Valentine's Dance (regular); March 12 - St. Patty's Dance (regular); April 10 - Twelfth Birthday Dance - pot luck and dance. (same as for Christmas); May 8 (proposed) - Last dance -pot luck and dance (as for Christmas dance).

Drifting Travelers

Stephen Adams did his annual fishing trip to Prince Rupert.

Dave Riske spread his Dad's ashes this summer and he also attended Prince George Jamboree.

Erling and **Alice Clemmenson** traveled to Saskatchewan for Alice's mom's 99th birthday!! While there Alice had some health problems and ended up in emergency and had the left artery in her neck operated on. She is doing well and we have seen her out dancing this fall. They headed to Vancouver this fall and had the right side dealt with as well.

Lorna Beatty headed to Gull Lake, Saskatchewan to visit her daughter who was due to give birth in mid October. **Rick** stayed behind and tended the greenhouse. Rick did get in some fishing this summer at Babine Lake and caught some trout. Yum!! Rick is an active member in the Search and Rescue in this area and puts in many hours and days helping this worthwhile group.

Laura Roiter spent weeks dry camping with her family (7 people) down in the Barlow Lake area.

Dolores Young went to the Senior Games and attended the slow pitch games.

Sandi Jespersion and **Bob Fritchey** took 2 weeks (remember the smoke and heat? Should have been a 3 week holiday) to travel to Chilliwack for Sandi's niece's wedding then to Vernon to visit a friend of Sandi's and then to Spokane to check out a BlueBird Motorcoach. When they got back they danced at the fall fair with the rest of the Drifting Squares and then Bob headed back to Spokane to check out and drive the BlueBird back to Vanderhoof. One starter and a new fridge later..... it's home. Their checkout trip ended out being a trip to Castlegar in mid-September for a BC Bus Nuts Rally - four days of great weather and great food!!

Bits n' Pieces

Square Dance Memories by Pat MacKay (Williams Lake)

Square Dancing has been a part of my life since I emigrated to Canada, from England, in the spring of 1964. That summer I learned the basics of square dancing from **Dave Abbs**, who called once a week at the Flying U Guest Ranch, where I was working as an assistant cook.

That first winter in Canada my square dance partner and I joined the Clinton Club. Both of us were working in the Ashcroft area - he in the bush and me at the local hospital - and Clinton was our nearest club. The following May a group of us travelled to Williams Lake to participate in that town's popular square dance jamboree. I think the dance was held at the Elks Hall, but it might have been in the gym of one of the schools. Fifty years have passed since then but I still remember that evening and my first square dance dress. I still have it and wear it often although the belt doesn't quite reach around my waist anymore.

After the Williams Lake Jamboree, I lost touch with square dancing for a while due to an unexpected return to England. However, I caught up with it again a few years later when I moved to the Chilcotin, and eventually settled in Alexis Creek.

It was a vibrant community in the 70's and had a small but enthusiastic square dance club - The Circul8aters. Many of the smaller clubs had no caller and we danced to records - frustrating at times but hilarious at others.

During those earlier years dancing in the rural areas took place at different ranches scattered throughout the countryside. Every Saturday would see us dancing in someone's kitchen, basement, living room and even in a barn or out-building. Once in a while some members would be snowed in or the roads were too treacherous to drive, but usually there were enough couples for a square. The evening began with a pot-luck supper, followed by dancing and finishing with home-made pies and ice-cream. A supply of tea, coffee and juice was always available. Babies usually slept the evening away, apparently immune to the activity around them. The older children were encouraged to join in the dancing if they wanted to. Otherwise they amused themselves with jigsaw puzzles, board games, colouring or reading, in a room that had been set aside for them. Now and then some would come and watch us dance - the girls more impressed than the boys! Of course there were no video

games at the time and TV was seriously limited that far out in the Chilcotin. Besides which, the reception was appalling. I remember the men trying to watch a hockey game before supper at **Wendy and Brian Fletcher's** ranch one square dance night, but as the puck was barely visible amongst the snowy interference on the screen it was a frustrating experience.

Years ago people dressed in their finery for every dance night they attended. However these days many of the women prefer to wear jeans or prairie skirts for the weekly club dances as they are more comfortable when workshopping. Now the fancy outfits are more often kept for special occasion dance nights. Every year it is interesting to see the wide variety of designs that have been home-made or purchased for the occasion. Up to date I have never seen any two identical.

In the late '70's our small club was blessed with a caller of our own. **Nick Turner** was principal at the Alexis Creek School when he joined our club, and shortly afterwards he learned how to call. Now, forty or more years later he is still calling, but this time in Williams Lake for the Stampede Whirlaways. His wife, **Mary Anne**, teaches round dancing which is very popular with our dancers. Both Nick and Mary Anne are enthusiastic and help keep our club alive and well, along with the other members, both new and old.

My partner, **John Stirling**, and I were active members of the Stampede Whirlaways for several years until we re-located to a farm on the Sunshine Coast. We returned to Williams Lake thirty years later in 2012 and re-joined the club. Although John was unable to dance anymore he enjoyed attending the jamboree that spring and also the Christmas Party where he visited with friends from the good old days. Much reminiscing took place during those visits. When I lost John just before Christmas that year, the club members warmly welcomed me back when I returned, and a year later they supported me yet again when I became ill for a few weeks. I will always be grateful for their caring and sharing. But this is the way square dancers are - always supportive in the not-so great times and sharing in the enjoyment of the good ones.

Square Dancing has been a definite bonus in my life, and I know it has been the same for many others. Here's hoping we all continue to be part of it for many more years to come.

Caller, Jerry Jestin

says.....



Remember to
clap at the end
of each square
dance tip!

Last June, Prince George held their annual jamboree and 12 members of the Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways were happy to attend. **Jerry Jestin** was the caller and cuer for the weekend. He had an interesting variety of music and he sure kept all the dancers hopping.

During the weekend, Jerry noticed that some of the dancers did not clap at the end of a tip.

He reminded us that we **should** clap and gave us 3 possible reasons for doing so.

Jerry said, " You could clap..... because you had a good time.

Or you could clap.....because the caller was good.

Or you could clapbecause you were glad the tip was over.

But you have to clap for something!"

Of course, Jerry was being funny with the last suggestion but the gist of his comment was that your applause is the way that the caller knows if you enjoyed yourself. If you liked the calling, the music, or the choreography, take time to clap!

Jerry will be returning to Prince George in June 2015 to call their Jamboree again, so we will have to see if we can improve our square dance etiquette by then. *(And don't forget to clap for the cuer too!)*



Wishing Everyone a Season
Filled
With Joy and Happiness

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
BRAND NEW YEAR
FILLED WITH HAPPY DANCING**

*From The BC Square & Round
Dance Federation Executive*

*Ken Crisp, Bill Wood, Gord Ruedig, Pat
Zeeman and Wendy Krueger.*



5...4...3...2...1...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SOUTH CARIBOO
SQUARE DANCE ASSOCIATION
NEW YEARS EVE DANCE

Lac La Hache Seniors Centre

Pre Rounds: 1:30 pm.

Mainstream: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

MAINSTREAM & NEW DANCERS

\$6.00 PER PERSON

CONTACT Kai Rasmussen - 250 - 791 - 5503

Pot Luck Supper 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 31, 2014



STAMPEDE WHIRLAWAYS 56th JAMBOREE



The one-of-a-kind Jamboree in Williams Lake last season was another great dance. Each year, **Mary Anne Turner** and her crew outdo themselves with incredible decorations. This year's theme was 'Nautical' and a huge mural depicted the scene over the railings from the deck of a cruise ship, while the stage became a very realistic boat.

On Friday evening six squares enjoyed the calling and cueing of **Nick and Mary Anne Turner** who found some really great sea-related music for both the squares and Rounds that they choreographed. Saturday morning was time for Mary Anne's much enjoyed Round Dance Social with interesting dances choreographed by the Turners - again with a sea theme. Forty dancers attended this event.

Featured caller, **Dustin McGifford**, appearing for his 6th consecutive year, called the Deck Party Dance on Saturday afternoon with a break for "Nautical Treats" and on Saturday evening he and his dad appeared dressed as a ships' captains. We so appreciate Dustin getting into the spirit of things. He called a great dance as usual.

And, as usual, the Whirlaways put on some great half-time entertainment. As the ship had docked in St. John's Newfoundland, we had a Newfie band appear with their ugly sticks - the famous Newfoundland percussion instrument. What a creative collection! It was also discovered that a famous ballet troupe was on board and the "Barishniflops" gave a fine performance to the classical music "Dance of the Hours" better known to most as "Hello Mother, Hello Father".

On Sunday morning guest callers, **Ken Crisp** and **Sandi Jespersion** along with cuer **Helen Hall** joined Nick and Mary Anne for a breakfast dance.



Photos of the weekend as well as YouTube videos of the ballet and the ugly stick performance can be seen on the Stampede Whirlaways web site on the scrapbook page. Links are at

<http://www.wmslk.squaredance.bc.ca/scrapbook.html>

Thanks to **Kai Rasmussen** from South Cariboo for taking and posting videos for us.

Many thanks to the Whirlaways dancers for helping put up and take down the decorations and to the kitchen crew and club members for the great food they prepared and served.

Sadly we will no longer be able to use a school for our Jamboree venue. The Cariboo Chilcotin school board and Secretary Treasurer are enforcing policies which disallow dry camping on school grounds, the use of the kitchen without special permission and an extra fee, and the need to pay for a Janitor to be on site at all times during the weekend. This "grinch-like" attitude makes it completely unaffordable for community groups such as ours to use any school in the district for a weekend event.

This is a sad state of affairs after over 50 years of successfully staging our jamboree in a school. As a result, there are very few venues available in our community that have the facilities we need and are also affordable. However, for next year, we have relocated to a hall called the Long House which is next to the curling rink and Stampede grounds. We hope to see you there. More details in future issues.

YES YOU CAN! by Nick and Mary Anne Turner

Many years ago - and repeated often since - some wise square dancer observed, **“Square Dancing is the world’s best-kept secret.”** The Keynote speaker at the 2014 CALLERLAB Convention stated: **“The reason no one is talking about square dancing is because ... no one is talking about square dancing.”**

So, how do we talk about square dancing in a way that will attract the 40 - 60 year olds who are our best age target to recruit?

“Word-of-mouth” is the cry. “That’s the best way to recruit new dancers.” Hold on a second. Apart from family, how many 40 - 60 year old strangers do we actually talk to?

Many of us in the Square Dance world are over 70 and *we’re* having a blast. Problem is there are fewer and fewer of us each year and we can’t seem to be able to reach the 40 - 60 target demographic.

Could it be that communication has broken down?

It’s not just the young folk, the under 30s, that Tweet, make Facebook entries, Text Message or post on YouTube. That’s how millions of 30 - 60 year olds (and older) communicate these days. The world of communication has changed dramatically and many of us in the Square Dance world have been left behind simply because we are unwilling to even try to understand the computer / iPhone world.

I am a man, therefore I don’t read instruction manuals thus I am not a computer expert. But Mary Anne does read the manuals and over the years she has taught herself all she wants to know about the computer world. She has taken the time to teach me the basics of using Social Media and I’ve learned it’s not rocket science.

Using Twitter and FaceBook enables us to communicate with hundreds, if not thousands of people we don’t even know and we are able to talk about the fun we’ve had square dancing. All it takes is a mention here and there and that keeps awareness of our hobby in people’s minds. Then, when they see the flyer announcing new dancer sessions, a jiggle in their brains from all the Tweets and Facebook entries they’ve experienced might nudge them to give Square Dancing a try.

If all of us - not just our promotion/publicity persons but ALL of us who use a computer for whatever reason - learned how to use social media to get the word out to

the younger-than-us, we just might open some unbelievable communication channels and be able to encourage the 40 - 60s - and even the younger folk, to come square dancing.

The BCS&RD Federation has money to put on workshops. Perhaps there might be interest in having one to teach people how simple it is to use Social Media and what kind of message to get out. Don’t we owe it to ourselves to actually find out what this is all about?

If we attend a workshop and learn some basics or if we take the time to research and teach ourselves, then surely we can all spare just a small amount of time each week, to post something about square dancing on Facebook, Twitter, or some other electronic social media. This will start the increase in “chatter” and the post can be as simple as a photo or just a comment such as “We had a great time at our square dance tonight”.

We don’t have to like the world of Social Media but we should be willing to learn how to use it to promote our square dance recreation. For almost a century, former club members have contributed to keeping square dancing alive for us, now it is our turn. Do what you can to help out.

Congratulations to **Sandi Jespersen** of the Vanderhoof Drifting Squares for maintaining a Facebook page about her club. It can be found at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VanderhoofDriftingSquares/>

In the absence of Social Media workshops, there are a great many videos available on YouTube for you to watch. (Some good, some not!)

One example with information about Twitter for Beginners can be found at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0mLVEvIWa8>

On Example with information about Facebook for Beginners can be found at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpLiODJsp4Q>

A CALLER'S THOUGHTS ON HELPING NEW DANCERS

By Nick Turner

Years ago, when many of **today's** dancers first started, their commitment to Square Dancing easily became a regular part of their lives. New dancers were happy and willing to devote 30 weeks to learning the Mainstream program. They just added square dancing to their schedules and seldom missed a week. Now, even though people still enjoy learning to square dance, it seems the rest of Life gets in the way.

An example of this is our last year's new dancer group. During the season, the dancer attendance was very irregular and after 20 weeks of dancing instruction, only one dancer followed through and is now dancing with the Mainstream group. How disappointing after all that time spent! But wait, that is not the end of the story. The good news is that they all came back to this season's classes. The fact is that they had a good time last season and wanted to continue. It is just that other things in their lives got in the way last year - physical injuries, sickness, job obligations, family problems, holiday trips, bad weather, to name a few.

This is not specific to our club, it is happening all over the square dance world and has resulted in organizations like Callerlab and the American Caller Association discussing, debating, pondering and pontificating on the fact that it just takes too long to get people through the Mainstream Program because there are too many calls on the Mainstream list. It is felt that this results in people dropping out of class before they get a chance to dance with the full club.

I'm wondering if this is indeed the case or is it the pressure on new dancers to learn Mainstream **in a hurry** before they can join the club dancing? Perhaps if they danced with the Mainstream club sooner but progressed through the list slower, new dancers would better enjoy dancing and learning. How to accomplish this and **keep both the new and the experienced dancers happy** is the question.

To address this problem, CALLERLAB has recently issued a Condensed Teaching Order. Callers are experimenting with it and reporting good results. It is suggested that we teach the most popular calls from the Mainstream list **before** we worry about teaching all of the Basics. Recently I happened across an article in an American Square Dance magazine from 1992 that suggested the very thing that CL is now proposing. I have decided that I will do something similar but I will

make my own list for a teaching order based on what I feel would allow for integration into our club sooner but still be enjoyable for all.

So my plan is to teach **my most used** Mainstream calls before completing the Basic list - of course some basics are necessary first! Fortunately my club realizes the importance of increasing the membership and our dancers are willing to have the new dancers join them. But with this change in the order of instruction, all will be able to dance interesting choreo so it is a win-win situation.

In the following fall when the new season starts, I can easily teach the rest of the MS list moves and by Christmas our club will be dancing the full Mainstream list with time in the New year to get floor time and build confidence. This way, I will have actually accomplished the Callerlab recommendation of taking two years to teach the Mainstream list while the new dancers will have been happily dancing with the Mainstream club for a considerable time while under no pressure to learn, learn, learn.

Stay tuned and I'll let you know how it works out. Email me if you would like my New Dancer Plan or if you have a comment or suggestion on this topic.

And while we are on the topic of a condensed teaching order, hurray for **Gord Ruedig** in Powell River! His West Coast Dance Program is proving to be very successful. He did just what Callerlab proposes - though his WCD program is intended to be a destination program rather than a path to full Mainstream. Gord made the WCD list from **singing call figures used most** by Vancouver Island callers and these callers have agreed to teach the WCD list to new dancers in 10 weeks. After that, clubs would then take turns offering dances on their club night for these new dancers. From all reports it's going gangbusters and Region 2 (Lower Mainland) is starting to follow this idea.

Now remember, in Region 5, we cannot easily do the West Coast Program as distances between clubs are too great and winters too severe for travel but callers can use these ideas to help their new dancers join the Mainstream club scene sooner and more successfully.



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REGION 5 DANCE SCHEDULE 2014/2015

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

WHEN	WHERE	EVENT	CALLERS/ CUERS
Nov. 8, 2014	Prince George	Snowflake Dance	Merv & Sandy Meyer
Dec. 8, 2014	Lac La Hache	Christmas Dance & Potluck to follow	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Dec. 11, 2014	Vanderhoof	Christmas Potluck and Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Dec. 13, 2014	Williams Lake	Christmas Dinner and Dance	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Dec. 15, 2014	Prince George	Christmas Dinner and Dance	Gys Koops
Dec. 31, 2014	Lac La Hache	New Year Dance & Potluck to follow	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Jan. 24, 2015	Prince George	Robbie Burns Dance	Ray Brendzy
Feb. 9, 2015	Prince George	Valentine's Day Dance	Gys Koops
Feb. 12, 2015	Vanderhoof	Valentine's Day Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Feb. 16, 2015	Lac La Hache	Caribooter's Valentine Dance	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Feb. 22, 2015	South Cariboo	My Tie Dance at the Greens	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Feb. 23, 2015	Prince George	50s and 60s Dance	Gys Koops
Mar. 7, 2015	Williams Lake	March Merriment & Pie Night Dance	Nick & Mary Anne Turner
Mar. 12, 2015	Vanderhoof	St. Paddy's Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Mar. 16, 2015	Prince George	St. Patrick's Potluck and Dance	Gys Koops
Mar. 16, 2015	Lac La Hache	St. Patrick's Day Dance Party	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
Mar. 30, 2015	Prince George	Goofer's Night	Goofer Callers
Apr. 10, 2015	Vanderhoof	12th Birthday Dance	Gys, Sandi, Dolores
Apr. 27, 2015	Lac La Hache	Thank God It's Spring Dance	Dave Abbs & Helen Hall
May 22-24, 2015	Williams Lake	57th Jamboree -Jolly Old England Theme	Dustin McGifford, Nick and Mary Anne Turner
June 5-7, 2015	Prince George	Spring Jamboree Weekend	Jerry Jestin
August 5-8, 2015	Pentiction	12th Peachfest Jamboree	Many Callers & Cuers

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, 2015.**

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