

Region 5 Report for 2024 BCS&RDF AGM

Submitted by Mary Anne Turner

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REGION 5 SUMMARY

Region 5 continues to struggle following the years of Covid shut down. The region has 4 clubs still dancing and some continue to deal with smaller membership numbers as well as financial difficulties . We have 60 members registered with the BCS&RDF.

Our clubs are so far apart that there is very little interaction between them (Dawson Creek, Vanderhoof, Prince George, Williams Lake).

No special dances or Jamborees were scheduled during this 2023/2024 season.

Region 5 continues to maintain a website at <https://r5ccda.squaredance.bc.ca> (Webmaster: Mary Anne Turner). The Promotions page on this website has been accessed by people across the country. It contains a collection of flyers and certificates that are editable as well as 2 documents written by Nick Turner to assist newer callers with the teaching of the SSD program.

CLUB INFORMATION

1. Dawson Creek Mile Zero Grand Squares:

Dawson Creek is dancing 2 squares, once a week. They had 3 new dancers this year. The caller is Brian Johnson. Dawson Creek has little interest in BCS&RDF activities. Only the club and the caller are registered as Federation members. None of their dancers are registered.

2. Vanderhoof Drifting Squares: -_Lorna Beatty, Secretary

Dolores Young is the Caller. The Drifting Squares have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VanderhoofDriftingSquares/>

Vanderhoof Drifting Squares is still surviving. We can barely make a square most nights but are persevering. Dolores Young continues to call and cue for us. We advertised a 6 week beginner class and got three new members, but only one stayed. She did, however, talk her mother, father, and as of Friday, her son into joining her, so hopefully they will stay.

We taught some two step classes and also ran a 6 week jive course and got 2 people for this, but they were not interested in joining the squares. There was a request to add some contra so Dolores has added this, too.

We are attending a rec fair next Saturday and will use the videos that MaryAnne has posted on the website and with luck will get more dancers.

We did have a wonderful Xmas party dance and potluck with an entire square coming from Prince George. It meant we got to dance some mainstream instead of beginner! We will continue to hang in, see you all in Calgary

3.Prince George Northern Twisters Square Dance Club:- Loretta McKinnon

Gys Koops is the club caller and Gary Dean is the cuer.

Prince George Northern Twisters have a facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063660574592&fref=ts>

Our finances were getting very low and we thought we would have had to end our season end of March. But the money we received from the Larry Mann memorial fund was a huge help. I was able to get our monthly rent down to \$25 per night instead of \$50 per night. This too is a huge help. If all our members return in the new dance season and if we can possibly recruit at least 10 new dancers we should be okay. And if our 25+ year dancers agree to pay the full season rate instead of the special \$25 season rate that they were paying in the past - we should be okay to continue for a full season.

We tried recruiting new dancers for January. We did end up with some new dancers but the only problem was that we had to start all over at the beginning lessons and it was a bit frustrating for some of our seasoned dancers to have had to start from the beginning. We will try to continue to recruit new members for September start up. Our plan is to start sending out posters throughout the month of August and September.

We try to keep our dances fun and entertaining each month. We have had a Hot Chocolate and Cookie Bar night, a Tartan Dress and appy night, a Valentine's Dance, a St. Patrick's Dance, an Easter & Goofy Hat Dance, and a 50/60s Dance with Goofers and an ice cream float bar.

We have 2 members that telephone all the dancers to remind them of what is coming up.

We are hoping to continue to recruit new members and keep them interested so they will attend each week.

We are also hoping that, maybe, some of our new members will come forward and either take over our roles as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer as we all have been in this role for quite some time now. I have been treasurer for more than 4 years now. Our President bounces back and forth from Glenda to Dolores. Thank you to Julie who stepped up to be our Secretary.

4.) Williams Lake Stampede Whirlaways: -Mary Anne Turner

Nick Turner is the club caller with assistance from Bill Cave when he is in town. Mary Anne Turner is the Round Dance Cuer. We meet once a week on Thursday nights for Phase II Round dancing at 7:00 PM and SSD and/or Mainstream at 7:30 PM.

The 2023/2024 season ended on April 18. It was a somewhat more encouraging year. We added a square of new dancers and so we were able to dance 2 or 3 squares throughout the season. That was a nice change from the 1 square we had for most of last year. Our new dancers completed the SSD Program and they were well supported by all the club members. Most of these new dancers have said that they were looking forward to joining us again in the fall and some of them have even volunteered to take an executive position next season..

To pass information around and for advertising purposes, Mary Anne Turner maintains a **website** for the Whirlaways at <https://wmslk.squaredance.bc.ca> and a **Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/williamslakesquaredancers>