

# C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization



## NICKEL CITY THE SUPERNATURAL WORKSHOP

By: Barbara Elko

Superheroes, the 2015 Nickel City Festival's theme best describes Johanna Healy and all the super volunteers involved putting this event together. Johanna and her helpers seem to possess superpowers....keen hearing, extraordinary vision, perpetual energy, and a powerful passion to make Nickel City Festival the best it can be. Thanks you for this truly amazing workshop!

Once again there were an abundance of talented instructors. Those attending had the rare opportunity to take classes with Gary Larson. He is a magnificent, inspiring instructor. He conveys his love of dance in every move he presents. Gary not only guides the dancers feet, he gentle encourages facial expressions, arm and hip movements, he wants everything moving! During Friday's fun dance he actually had dancers crawling around on the floor, lying on their backs kicking their legs in the air, speaking a foreign language, and making some very strange noises. This guy is one of a kind!

Jeff Driggs was a standout! Yeah, his choice of songs and routines were great, but that is a given. What caught everybody's attention was his incessant humor, throughout the entire weekend. His teach to "Brave Boys" packed the hall. Jeff had help teaching this one. Nathan Ballard, and Matt Koziuk easily cued their section. Every stage needs a little "eye candy" this role was given to Shane Gruber. It was a fast paced Celtic song, and tons of fun! Sadly, we said good bye to Nathan. He will be returning to Australia, but said he'll be back.



Driggs channels Captain America

Who has more funk than Naomi Pyle? NOBODY. Her routine to "Up Town Funk" was just another example of this lady's boundless skills. This class was a blast! No doubt many clubs will be adding this routine to their program.

Chip Summey taught several country routines, all of which the dancers enjoyed. He is still struggling with the correct pronunciation of the word "right" but with that wonderful smile who cares about his funny southern accent? He demonstrated yet another creative way to do a pull back. How many does that make?

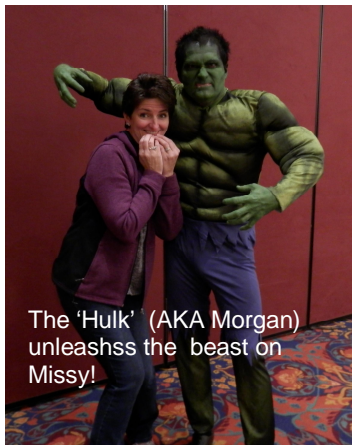
Andy Grammer must have wrote the song "Honey I'm Good" with cloggers in mind, it is great music. Jeff Driggs, Matt Koziuk, Missy Shinoski, Naomi Pyle, and Judy Waymouth had routines to it. All five classes were in the same time slot so you had to choose. Groups decided to split up to get as many as they could, cause they were all great routines.

Bekka Gunner a young enthusiastic instructor offered an advance teach to "Dangerous" and an intermediate to "Cheerleader". She is a gifted, personable dancer, and we will see more of this young lady.

Herb Brock taught two classes one bluegrass and the other Irish. Herb continues to fill classes. His jovial personality guarantees dancers a good time.

Shane Gruber had several teaches but only one had the dancers singing all weekend, "Bossa Nova Baby". Great routine to a catchy tune.

It is physically impossible to make all the classes, but the fact the dancers return to this



The 'Hulk' (AKA Morgan) unleashss the beast on Missy!

## CLOG Today

CLOG Today is published bi-monthly by

### CLOG - The National Clogging Leaders Organization, Inc.

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**CLOG Today** (formerly known as the *Flop-Eared Mule*) is the official newsletter for the National Clogging Leaders Organization, Inc., published by cloggers, for cloggers, in an effort to share clogging news and to promote and preserve the Clogging dance form.

CLOG members receive a copy of the *CLOG Today* newsletter as a benefit of CLOG membership. CLOG offers two membership classes: Gold (\$30.00 per year) and Silver (\$25.00 per year), US funds only.

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CLOG encourages all cloggers and clogging enthusiasts to contribute to the content of the newsletter. Please send news items, advertising, comments, and/or suggestions to the editor.

High-quality images and documents in Microsoft Word (attached to e-mail) are preferred. Original photos and documents sent via postal mail are also accepted (please send SASE for materials you wish to be returned).

Issue:	Deadline:
January-February	December 15
March-April	February 15
May-June	April 15
July-August	June 15
September-October	August 15
November-December	October 15

Advertising rates are available online or by contacting the editor.

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## Road to Baltimore...National CLOG 2015

### A Message from Baltimore



Baltimore is a city with a rich, diverse history and culture, unique neighborhoods and the kinds of amenities that offer visitors an authentic experience. Like many other cities, it is also facing challenges, but the City is coming together to address those challenges under a Mayoral initiative known as One Baltimore. As part of One Baltimore the hospitality industry along with other business, civic, and faith based leaders are collaborating as a community to be part of the solution. All of the tourism venues – from the convention center and hotels to the attractions, bars, retail shops and restaurants are ready to welcome you to Baltimore, over **Thanksgiving week, November 23-28, 2015**. The proud Baltimore residents who staff these venues are eager to share them with you. **Visit Baltimore** and the entire community remain committed to providing an outstanding customer and attendee experience.

**\*\*Comeback Cities [more...](#) \*\*Baltimore - Open for Business [more...](#)**

**\*\*Raising a Flag the Size of a Yacht - From Somebody's Gotta Do It [more...](#)**

**\*\*Baltimore One of the 7 Most Underrated American Food Cities [more...](#)**

#### Five Reasons To Go To Baltimore

1. Easy To Get There—It is in the crossroads of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Located off I-95, serviced by Amtrak, 15 minutes from the airport.
2. The Famed Inner Harbor—the Inner Harbor is surrounded by renowned attractions, a variety of restaurants, and unique shopping.
3. Easy To Get Around—Museums and attractions are easily accessible via the fast and free Charm City Circulator hybrid buses or the Baltimore Water taxi.
4. Beautiful Weather—The average high is 56 degrees and the low is 37 degrees.
5. Location—Just 45 minutes from Washington D.C. and right at the Chesapeake Bay area.

[Download Registration Form](#) (PDF)

[Download Registration Form](#) (Excel)

[On Line Convention Registration](#)

*Come Visit Baltimore!*  
*National CLOG Convention 2015*  
*November 26-28, 2015*

**On the beat.....** *More from Nickel City*

workshop every year is testimony to the fabulous instructors and the entertaining routines they bring. Thank you, your ideas keep us on our toes.

Friday night the superheroes showed up at the fun dance. Superman, Batgirl, Spiderman, Iron Man, Captain America, Wonder Woman—you get the picture. Hands down Morgan Hudson had the best costume. He came as the Hulk, and was down right scary! He even started making a transformation while cueing the fun dance, his green make up start melting. Great job Morgan!



Saturday evening demos were fantastic. The Stompin'Em Cloggers blew everyone away with their Ninja Turtles Costumes! I am not sure how they were able to dance with the large heads they were sporting. One word sums up Tension's acapella—sensational! All Reel Drive, the trio from Judy's School of Dance were absolutely beautiful to watch. The Backwoods Lady Bugs, a young group of Super Girls put on a good show. The Shane Gang super heroes had some great original costumes Super Mom, Super Hot Flash, and Super Plumber to name a few. Most impressive was Rhonda's Foot Stompers. A technical problem delayed the start of their music so the six young ladies were left just standing there waiting. Shortly after they started their routine a technical problem stopped the music. These young gals without missing a beat continued to dance their entire routine without music. The audience encouraged them by singing the song, and clapping. Great job Rhonda's Foot Stompers! Hands down, the Just For Fun Cloggers stole the show. Captain Herb and his Wonder Women were on **FIRE!** The ladies shimmied wildly and Captain Herb broke into a sweat while dancing to Fireball. This wacky bunch had the audience laughing start to finish!

The festival came to a close Saturday evening with all the instructors on stage dancing to Rocky Top, which truly had the stage rocking. It was a tribute to the recent passing of the legendary Joann Gibbs, who among many other things co-wrote Rocky Top. Our deepest sympathy to her family, and her many friends.



Well now it is time for Kerri Orthner to start counting the days until next years Nickel City Festival. The dates are April 14,15,16. It will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival and they are planning on celebrating with a Sock Hop!



Gary Larsen proves Cloggers will do anything they are cued to do. This was a traditional African dance.



## CITY SLICKER STOMP

WHERE CITY MEETS THE COUNTRY

By: Barbara Elko

This workshop/competition takes place in the Midwest “show me state” of Missouri. The exact location for this event is the Hilton Garden Inn, Independence Missouri. This one is a real gem, hosted by Missy Shinoski. It has taken place annually for 17 years. It is well organized, loaded with great instructors, a wonderful facility, and happy dancers!

I'll start by telling you a bit about the area. Great restaurants, the barbeque pork is a must! There are a variety of unique shops, a great aquarium and zoo, over 200 water fountains to view, but the real treasure is the Museum Arabia! The museum houses the largest collection of pre-civil war artifacts ever found aboard a sunken steamboat. It is amazing!

Five halls were opened with thirteen instructors armed and ready. There is no better way to start the day than having Blake Dunn at the helm. She is a fabulous teacher. She masterfully guides the dancers through new steps, paying close attention that everyone gets them.

Todd Harry from the state of Washington is an up and rising instructor. He taught two intermediates, but really shines with the advanced stuff. Todd actually had a couple members of his fan club present showing their support. He is a personable skilled dancer.



Todd has a fan in Barb!

Shane Gruber warmed up the cloggers with a buck/flatfoot class. His bag of routines included, country, oldies, and pop. Even though this workshop took place in the Midwest Shane stuck with his Tropical attire!



Colleen Zurbrigg, Cricket Kinsler, Shane Gruber

Colleen Zurbrigg headed south from Ontario Canada and landed in Independence Missouri. She brought with her a routine to the song “Compass.” Colleen is a delightful, lady, both on and off the dance floor. She also shared some fun easy routines at the fun dance.

Nobody enjoys dancing more than Morgan Hudson. He will dance anywhere with anyone. He made his way from Kentucky jumped into a new pair of shiny blue clogging shoes and never stopped. In 2009, at the Nickel City Festival, he started a group called the Combination Cloggers. It gave dancers from all over an opportunity to demo together. Via the internet, Morgan passes along the necessary information. I did not know it was a traveling demo. An announcement was made for the Combination Cloggers to start their demo. There were only three of us from the Nickel City Festival how in the heck did Morgan think we could pull off the routine? To my surprise a bunch of dancers attending the City Slicker Stomp jumped up to demo. Those dancers were really shocked when the three of us joined them. Morgan's idea to form the Combination Cloggers was brilliant! It truly brings dancers from all over to-

# On the beat.....

# More on City SlickerStomp

(Continued from page 4)

gether.

Joel Harrison demonstrated his high intermediate routine to the popular song "Honey I'm Good." Naomi shared her routine to the same song. She also presented her routine to another popular song, "Up Town Funk." The room filled quickly when Rhonda Olney taught her version of "All About the Bass." Instructors Sheryl Baker, Crickett Kinser, Kevin Beach, and Alyssa Keller all did a great job!

Competition started Saturday evening. The competitors were fantastic... beautiful costumes, original routines and ideas. After Missy handed out awards everyone took to the dance floor for some good old Rocky Top and several other dances from the National Dance List. It was a warm ending, to a great day dancing with old and new friends!

If Independence Missouri is a bit far from your home plan a family vacation, that just happens to included a day of clogging...cause this one is FUN!

Thank you Missy, your hard work put smiles on many faces!



FLASH

CITY SLICKER STOMP  
2016  
APRIL 1 & 2



## On the beat.....

## A word from our Aussie Friend Nathan Ballard

I'm coming home, coming home, tell the world that I'm coming... Home.

Wow what a journey this last 10 months has been. Trying to sum it up as best I can. I have met so many people and shared a whole lot of experiences to go with it. I've danced in many different states and countries. I have taught but most importantly I have learnt. Whether it be step technique, working with children, the history of clogging, socialising with Canadians! Haha. I have taken a lot in. Most of all I have learnt so much about myself. It will take time to reflect on this journey soon but for right now... I didn't know what to expect, I didn't have a concrete plan, I just knew to get started and things would work. And man have they worked.

I am very lucky to be in the position I am in. I thank my company back home for allowing me the time to follow my passion. 12 years on and I still see more to come! Looking forward to coming home and seeing what's going on in the supermarkets around the place.

I want to thank all the dancers and directors who have taken the time to get to know me. Anxiety is an understatement for what I felt in some instances when meeting knew faces. Though this was unwarranted. My messages to the dancers around the country is to not take what you have for granted. You have many great organisations, many great leaders and many great directors. The opportunity to attend many good workshops as well as compete in many competitions. The short time I was involved with this this year has meant the most to me. If you haven't been to a workshop, do so - there are so many chances to meet new faces and share what we all love. If you haven't competed... Think about it. Or at least head out and support the competitions around and check out what is happening in this format of clogging.

Finally, take any chance you can get to travel. Meet knew people, become part of a new family. Share your stories with others.

I have loved this journey and it is hard to leave but I look forward to staying in contact with as many people as possible and hopefully seeing many faces again soon!!

Aussie Aussie Aussie!!





## Upcoming Events

### Aug 7-8, 2015

Mississippi Clogging Extravaganza  
Clyde Muse Center  
Pearl, MS  
Angie Miller (601) 906-2882  
[msclogextravaganza.com](http://msclogextravaganza.com)

### Aug 14-15, 2015

Sunshine State Clogging Jamboree  
Daytona Beach, FL  
Jeff Wood 850-386-1263  
[wood@talstar.com](mailto:wood@talstar.com)  
Naomi Pyle 812-579-6979  
[Naomi\\_p@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net)

### Sep 11-12, 2015

Clogging & Folk Festival  
The Ozark Folk Center  
Mountain View, AR  
870-269-3851  
[ozarkfolkcenter.com](http://ozarkfolkcenter.com)

### Sep 11-12, 2015

Florida Clogging Council State Convention  
Eau Gallie Civic Center  
Melbourne, FL  
<http://floridacloggingcouncil.weebly.com>

### Sep 11-13, 2015

19th Australian Clogging Association  
National Clogging Convention  
Central Coast  
New South Wales, Australia  
[2015enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:2015enquiries@gmail.com)  
[2015programming@gmail.com](mailto:2015programming@gmail.com)  
[cloggingaustralia.com](http://cloggingaustralia.com)

### Sep 18-19, 2015

Fontana Clogging Jamboree  
Fontana Village Resort  
Fontana Village, NC  
Jeff Driggs 304-776-9571  
[ccaieff@aol.com](mailto:ccaieff@aol.com)  
Naomi Pyle 812-579-6979  
[Naomi\\_p@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net)  
[fontanaworkshop.com](http://fontanaworkshop.com)

### Oct 24, 2015

OktoberClogFest Workshop  
Donner Center  
Columbus, IN  
Naomi Pyle 812-579-6979  
[Naomi\\_p@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net)

### Nov 7, 2015

Appalachian Stomp  
Carver Community Center  
Purcellville, VA  
Mary Smith [info@BRTC.us](mailto:info@BRTC.us)  
[AppalachianStomp.com](http://AppalachianStomp.com)

**Check with event coordinators to confirm event details!**

### Nov 7, 2015

The Great Texas Hoedown  
Blanco, TX  
Buster Green 830-980-3600  
[clogger@thegreenshomepage.com](mailto:clogger@thegreenshomepage.com)  
Glen McCrary 214-455-1716  
[glenem72@cs.com](mailto:glenem72@cs.com)  
[www.texas-clogging.com](http://www.texas-clogging.com)

### Nov 13-15, 2015

Hickory Hoedown  
Hickory Metro Conv. Ctr.  
Hickory, NC  
AJ & Jill Kirby 828-396-2052  
[simscountrycloggers@yahoo.com](mailto:simscountrycloggers@yahoo.com)  
[clognc.com](http://clognc.com)

### Nov 25-28, 2015

29th Annual C.L.O.G. National Clogging Convention  
Baltimore, MC  
David & Susan Phillips 678-889-4355  
[clog@clog.org](mailto:clog@clog.org)  
[clog.org](http://clog.org)

## Competitions

### Aug 1, 2015

Summer Fest Competition (ACHF)  
Easley High School  
Easley, SC  
Dianne Loftin 864-277-0553  
[dloftin01@gmail.com](mailto:dloftin01@gmail.com)

### Aug 15, 2015

Bluegrass Clogging Competition (CCA)  
Morehead, KY  
Scott & Dena Dobson  
[sdobson@bluemarble.net](mailto:sdobson@bluemarble.net)  
[ccaclog.com](http://ccaclog.com)

### Aug 15, 2015

Wilson County Fair ((NCHC)  
Lebanon, TN  
Grace Pack 615-449-3821  
[gpac33@aol.com](mailto:gpac33@aol.com)

### Aug 22, 2015

Sound FX Clogging Championships (ACHF)  
James W. Warren Citizens Center  
Lincolnton, NC  
Dianne Loftin 864-277-0553  
[dloftin01@gmail.com](mailto:dloftin01@gmail.com)  
Quinn Stansell 704-418-8047  
[gstansell@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gstansell@carolina.rr.com)

### Sep 11-12, 2015

North Carolina Mountain State Fair Clogging Competition (ACHF)  
WNC Ag Center  
Fletcher, NC  
Dianne Loftin 864-277-0553  
[dloftin01@gmail.com](mailto:dloftin01@gmail.com)

*Have an event you want listed here?  
Send the information to:  
CLOGToday@clog.org*

### Sep 19, 2015

Magic Feet Ultimate Challenge (ACHF)  
Kody Shaw 336-431-0628  
or 336-954-9001  
[magicfeetdanceco@gmail.com](mailto:magicfeetdanceco@gmail.com)

### Sep 26, 2015

Dance Matrix (CCA)  
Bristol, TN  
Matt Sexton [mattsexton@silhouettesinc.com](mailto:mattsexton@silhouettesinc.com)  
Lynne Ogle [ccalynne@aol.com](mailto:ccalynne@aol.com)

October 10, 2015

Deep South Dance Off (CCA)  
Morton Theatre  
Athens, GA  
Heather Kohberger and Blake Dunn  
[dance@cloggingconnection.com](mailto:dance@cloggingconnection.com)  
[cloggingconnection.com](http://cloggingconnection.com)

## CLOG Welcomes New Members

Lynn Grassi, MD  
Donna Smith, NY  
Katrina Kaplin, NY  
Anne Main, MD  
Sharon Childs, AL  
Kathy Logan, LA  
Karla Call, CO  
Jackaline Rutter, CO  
Raymond Norvell, FL

For information on joining CLOG visit our website at [ww.clog.org](http://ww.clog.org), or contact us at 678-889-4355 or [clog@clog.org](mailto:clog@clog.org).



The National Clogging Organization, Inc.

[www.clog.org](http://www.clog.org)

(678) 889-4355 [clog@clog.org](mailto:clog@clog.org)

## Join the CLOG team

One-year CLOG Membership

Gold (instructors) \$30.00  
Silver (dancer) \$25.00

### Send the following info & check

Name Home Phone  
Address Work Phone  
City, State, Zip E-mail address  
Clogging Group Membership  
List membership in area, state, and/or national clogging associations

To: **CLOG, Inc.**

**2986 Mill Park Court  
Dacula, GA 30019**



David and Susan Phillips, Executive Directors  
2986 Mill Park Court  
Dacula, GA USA 30019

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## 32nd Annual CLOG National Convention ~ Baltimore, MD ~

November 26-28, 2015  
**Make Your Plans Now!**

### Auxiliary Events:

Certified Clogging Instructor Training Session  
~ Monday ~ Wednesday  
Judges Training ~ Thursday  
CCI Testing ~ Thursday

### Pre-Convention Events:

Evening Dance ~ Wednesday  
Open Teach Halls ~ Wednesday & Thursday  
Dance Expose' ~ Thursday

### Convention Events:

Parade of Colors ~ Thursday Evening  
Evening Dancing ~ Thursday - Saturday  
Workshops ~ Friday & Saturday  
Seminars ~ Friday & Saturday  
Exhibitions ~ Friday Evening  
Showcase ~ Saturday Evening

### Featuring:

Premier Clogging Instructors  
Early Registration & Member Discounts

**Schedule tentative and subject to Change**



### Hotel Info:

Hilton Baltimore  
401 W. Pratt Str., Baltimore, MD

### Reservation Number:

443-573-8700 -

Register online - <http://tinyurl.com/clog2015>

### GROUP ROOM RATES

**\$99 1-4 people per room**

**Parking \$15 per day**

**1st night deposit required with reservation**

**Guaranteed Rate until 10/28/2015**

**Rooms will Sell Out—Reserve Yours Today!!**

**Register Online** at [www.clog.org/convention](http://www.clog.org/convention)

**INFO:** [www.Clog.org](http://www.Clog.org)

678-889-4355

[convention@clog.org](mailto:convention@clog.org)

