

C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization

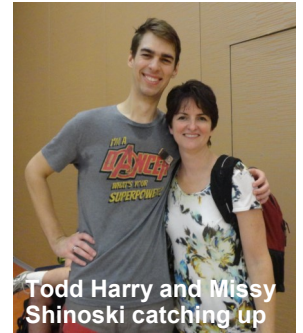


CLOGGING BY THE BAY

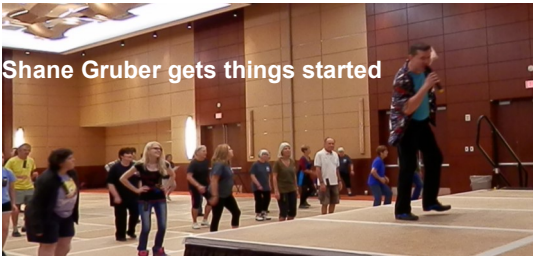
By: Barbara Elko

This year's National Convention was held in balmy Baltimore Maryland. That's right balmy Baltimore Maryland. Sunshine and warm temperatures, were a perfect mix for touring the Inner Harbor. Franklin D. Roosevelt once said "There's nothing to fear but fear itself." For those who stayed away from the convention because of Baltimore's recent problems... you all missed a great convention held in a wonderful location!

Instructor, Missy Shinoski, who calls Missouri home, was once again eager to share time with the attendees. She has been present at the National Convention since it's birth 32 years ago. Missy has taught at the convention 28 of those years. WOW what an impressive statistic! Her style, teaching clarity, and genuine love of dance makes her a dominant instructor who fills dance halls.



Todd Harry and Missy Shinoski catching up



Shane Gruber gets things started

A monstrous presence at any workshop is Shane Gruber! Folks just absolutely love him, and his routines. His ability to connect with the dancers unmatched. He had a couple of swing routines, along with pop and country. His animated delivery of Mr. Pinstripe Suit was outstanding.

Alberta Stamp resides in the state of Washington. She is a delightful person, and brought a lot of energy to her classes. She incorporated seldom used steps, making her routines intriguing. Some of the older steps many of the dancers had

never seen. Great insight to past times!

Classes with Florida instructor, Andy Howard are always a positive experience. He gently maneuvers dancers through routines. Andy laughed with the dancers taking his Contra class as some found it hard to find their proper destination! He is an enrichment to any workshop.



Alberta Stamp

Traveling from Winnipeg Canada, Darolyn

Pchajek (pronounced paycheck) rocked the house. She is a zealous person with fascinating routines. Darolyn's teaches are clear and her dancing is explosive! She also has a reputation for owing the largest variety of clogging shoes. It is fun guessing which shoes she will be wearing.

Melissa and Rob Pack from Tennessee love to share their vast knowledge of Traditional Figures. Melissa's team, Evermean Evergreen Cloggers are the overall 2015 ACHF champions. She has a radiant smile and a personality to match. The two approach teaching differently Rob is the gas and Melissa the brake. A perfect combination!

Barb Guenette, a Canadian instructor from British Columbia, strutted her stuff to the delight of those taking her classes. She a fun lady who likes to share laughter with those around her. She is directionally challenged, but that is part of her charm.



Andy and Darolyn getting down with their bad selves

Top: Melissa Pack and friend
Bottom: Barb and Pam hanging out!

CLOG Today

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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.

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CLOG Today Staff

CLOG encourages all cloggers and clogging

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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).

Advertising rates are available online or by

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

contacting the editor.

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CCI in Baltimore!



CCI training in Baltimore saw 5 people embark on their certification journey. For 3 days they spent time learning how build classes, run clubs/teams, write a cue sheet by choreographing a dance and so much more. And what a great way to share that journey too. It was a great collaboration of so many different levels and styles and areas that all of us walked away with some new ideas and some new friends.



The week began with some basics, we reviewed traditional figures and got up and dancing immediately. From that time things just flew. From talking about equipment and what everyone was using to creating our dance that will be taught at National Convention in Nashville next year. I think even the staff learned a few things from us!

As the class wound down, it was time for candidates from previous sessions to test out. On Wednesday afternoon 8 of us sat down to take the written test, it sounds intimidating, but really is not.

Given 60 minutes to complete it, I don't think anyone needed all of that time. Once that part was complete, the practical testing took place on Thursday in the open teach hall. Each candidate got on stage and taught their routine in their 30min time slot. There were 3 reviewers in the audience critiquing the teaches, and immediately after you were taken outside with those individuals to review how you had done and if you passed. This continued throughout the day on Thursday. When all was done, all 8 of us passed!



CCI Attendees: Chynna Birkmire, Katrina Kaplan, Amber McFerren, Lynn Grassi, Pam Smiley

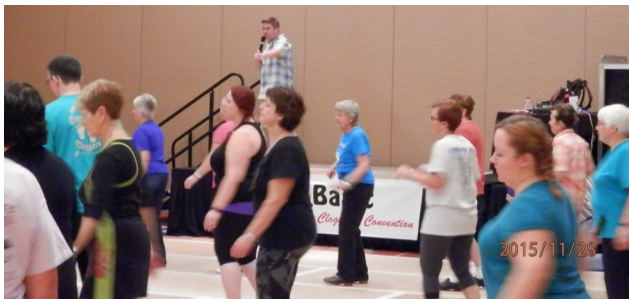
Congratulations to the Class of 2015!



CCI Staff, Scholarship winners and newly certified instructors

(Continued from page 1)

Funniest song selection goes to New Yorker, Andrew Perry. The song is titled Juicy Wiggle, and the routine is as silly as the song. This class was a blast! For the second consecutive year, his team the Drew Crew performed at the Polynesian Culture Centre in Honolulu. Andrew is a maturing enthusiastic young instructor.



Master instructors Jeff Driggs and Chip Summey came armed with an assortment of tricks. Apparently, Jeff does not like idle hands. For those taking his classes that means the dreaded arm movements accompanying unknown footwork. While Chip continues to find new ways to do a pull back. Many believe he is working on a world record. Their routines are always crowd pleasers!

Janet Hanzel did a fine job teaching a routine written by the 2014 CCI class. It was to the song Howdy Neighbor Howdy. A couple of those involved writing this routine last year were present. This was a fun class!

Introductory instructor, Todd Harry from the state of Washington was well received. His height and deep vocals are the first thing that draws attention. Once he starts dancing it is his footwork that captivates you. He held a seminar on replacing common steps with something fancy. He is a people person and spent time on the dance floor getting acquainted with the dancers.



Chip Summey hanging out with the Chairman of the Board and his wife Conrad and Janet Cooper.

A Georgia gal, Tori O'Bryant was the other introductory instructor. She is a confident talented lady who held classes basic through advanced. She too was happy spending time amongst the dancers. Thursday evening the Parade of States, Colors, and Nations the dancers marched outside of Camden Yard. It was a



pirate theme this year, and many buccaneers were spotted throughout the hotel. Brook Marie from Michigan won a plaque for best costume. The WNYCA hosted the welcoming dance, it was great having them present. Friday's fun dance hosts were Alberta Stamp and Darolyn Pchajek. Missy Shinoski hosted the Saturday evening fun dance. All the fun dances were full of energy, no lulls, instructors happy to be at the helm, and a variety of dances included mixers.

An absolutely beautiful quilt made by Edie and Don Farnum was raffled off Saturday evening prior to the show. This generous couple donates all proceeds from the raffle back to C.L.O.G. The clogging quilt included patches of the Baltimore Ravens and Orioles. Darlene Coddington from Pennsylvania won the quilt, she also won the quilt raffled off last year in Reno. This is one lucky lady!



The showcase this year was a bit different. Matt Davis a comedian/hypnotist was the entertainment for the evening. His show required twenty volunteers from the audience. The volunteers were a mix of dancers and instructors. The show was great! The hypnotist had Dave Phillips rolling on the floor, Andy Howard sniffing arm pits, and several cloggers thinking they were Charlie Daniels playing the fiddle.

Time to thank everyone for the part they played in putting this convention together. The executive committee, board of directors, instructors, floor managers, and most important those dancers attending you made this a fabulous weekend!



Ya'll pack your bags! Next year's National Convention will be held in Nashville Tennessee! It is an easy drive for many, those who must fly the airport is very convenient. There are numerous activities in the area. The Gaylord Resort is fantastic! The grandiose ballrooms can accommodate tons of dancers. Let's make it a goal to fill them up! You can stay home, over eat, and watch endless football games... or come dance Turkeys with you friends!

(Continued on page 4)

On the beat.....

Clogging by the Bay (con't.)

(Continued from page 3)

INSTRUCTOR'S THOUGHTS ON CONVENTION

Alberta Stamp

"I had a great time. It was wonderful to see old friends and make new ones. Baltimore is an amazing city with so much culture and history. I am just sad I was not able to see more of it in the short time I had. Convention was AWESOME! Intimate but very fun. I am so grateful for the dancers who attended. It made this experience of being a staff instructor something I will always remember. I heard every day how much fun people were having and how glad they were that they attended this year."

Andy Howard

"This year's National Convention really fostered friend-making. I really enjoyed the opportunity to connect with dancers on the floor and the other instructors. The fun dances were terrific and, as always, we found ourselves in the best of company. I hope everyone enjoyed the hypnotist on Saturday night and watching so many of us "strut" our stuff on stage. If I could only remember it, I'm sure I'd never forget! Thanks to David and Susan, the board and the myriad volunteers that work hard behind the scenes and a big "love you, mean it" (one of my signature sayings" to the cloggers who came out. Hope to see you in Nashville!"

Darolyn Pchajek

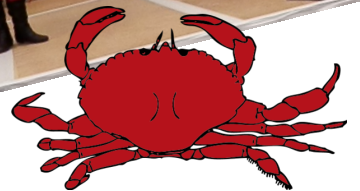
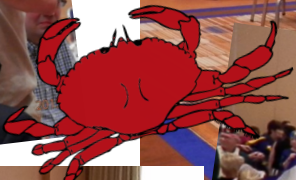
"Everything was wonderful. Routines were all good. Fun dances were intimate. Everyone was so friendly. It was so cool meeting people I've been friends with on FB for years and now finally met in person. The National Convention really draws people from all across the country (Florida to Washington), rather than the close states to a particular workshop. It was such an honor for the staff to dance Rocky Top for everyone in honor of Joann Gibbs. The hypnosis show was hilarious."

Todd Harry

"I had a lot of fun there. I would say that I felt very welcomed by the staff. Of course cloggers are all super nice wherever you go, it's always great to be around them. I always look forward to conventions like the national because you get to be around people that bypass the stranger stage and start out as friends. I think everything was pretty well done."



On the beat.... *Clogging by the Bay in pictures*



On the beat.....

Clogging in Virginia

By: Barbara Elko and Pam Smiley

Once again the Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers (BRTC) hosted a wonderful workshop.

The Appalachian Stomp was held in Purcellville VA at the historical Carver Center. Hosts, Joyce Guthrie and Mary Smith, and an amazing slue of volunteers seen to all the dancers needs. Three halls were opened with a variety of routines and levels to pick from. This workshop had a large offering of beginner classes. The thoroughness of these classes left the new dancers feeling confident about their ability to learn, and a taste of how much fun clog dancing is. The featured instructors were Blake Bartlett-Dunn and Paul Melville. Along with Joyce Guthrie and Mary Smith, local instructors included Kathy Moore, Beth Dunlap, Dana Woodard, Mary Price, and Jane Treadwell. These ladies did a great job!



Blake Bartlett-Dunn is a radiant instructor! Her presentation is smooth and clear. She brought intermediate routines to Boomerang and Tangled which were a blast! She also held an advanced Skills and Steps class, an easy level class for the beginners, and finished the day with an intermediate plus to the song Better When I'm Dancing. It was a privilege to have such a talented, person sharing her knowledge and love of clog dancing.

Paul Melville, with his boyish mannerisms, and infectious smile had those attending his classes rhythmically pounding the wooden floor. Paul is a skilled dancer and is maturing as an instructor. He spent time with the attendees both on and off the dance floor. He personally thanked those who took his harder classes for hanging tough.

After a great onsite dinner, the evening dance kicked off with a bang. Blake and Paul led everyone through their old favorites and some new ones too. We were treated to some great dancers strutting their stuff in exhibitions, including a National title holder! This young girl has sass and attitude and is a wonderful dancer! A great look at clogging's future for certain. Appalachian Stomp is also a great place to test out your traditional clogging chops. Mary Smith led everyone through a hoedown that got us all wrapped up in a 'ball of yarn'. Everyone thoroughly enjoys this part of the dance, we all get to know each other and just laugh a lot!

Make your plans now to attend next year when Andy Howard is already on tap to join the fun!

Appalachian Stomp November 5, 2016





Upcoming Events

February 19-20, 2016

10th Annual NorthWest ClogDown
Hazel Dell Grange
Vancouver, WA
Mike McDow 503-620-8032
Mike_McDow@yahoo.com
Jo Kern 503-621-7355
Litehousejo1@yahoo.com

March TBA, 2016

36th Annual TCC Rally
Waco Convention Center
Waco, TX
texas-clogging.com

March 11-13, 2016

Smoky Mountain Encore
Gatlinburg Convention Center
Gatlinburg, TN
Lynne Ogle 865-675-1185
ccalynne@aol.com
smokymountainencore.com

March 18-19, 2016

Possum Trot Clogging Workshop
Courtyard by Marriott
Oxnard, CA
possumtrotca.net

April 2, 2016

Mason Dixon Spring Stomp
St. Johns Catholic Church
Westminster, MD
carrollcountycloggers.com
Diane Gehret 410-259-8864
dianegehret@gmail.com
Lynn Grassi 410-428-6992
lynnglassi@verizon.net

April 8-9, 2016

Indiana River Cloggers POWWOW
Merritt Island, FL
Sandy Smallwood 321-631-5104
Bob Howard 321-452-6757
indianrivercloggers.org

April 14-16, 2016

Nickel City Clogging Festival
Adam's Mark Buffalo
Buffalo, NY
Res info: Linda Haley 716-537-9662
lhaley318@aol.com
Wksp Info: Hanna Healy 716-725-8415
hanna@wnyca.com
wnyca.com

April 14-16, 2016

Northeast Clogging Convention
Hyannis, MA
Beth Kendall 802-439-3349
freewebs.com/necc
bkendall@tops-tele.com

April 22 -23, 2016

Clogging in the Natural State
Ramada Inn
Mt. Home, Arkansas
www.arkansasloggingcouncil.com

Competitions

March TBD, 2016:

Winter Clogging Invitational (NCHC)
Saluda, NC
Chip Summey Ncjcs@aol.com

March TBD, 2016:

Northeast Clogging Competition
(NCHC) Quincy, MA
Beth Kendall 802.439.3349
www.freewebs.com/necc

March 12, 2016

Smoky Mountain Encore (CCA)
Gatlinburg Convention Center
Gatlinburg, TN
Lynne Ogle 865-675-1185
ccalynne@aol.com
smokymountainencore.com

April 1-2, 2016

City Slicker Stomp Competition (NCHC)
Independence, MO
Missy Shinoski kloghop@sbcglobal.net
www.CitySlickerStomp.info

May TBD, 2016

Dollywood Clogging Classic (NCHC)
Pigeon Forge, TN
David & Susan Phillips
dcclog@gmail.com

May 7, 2016

Big Horn Showdown (NCHC)
Buffalo, WY
Shanell Hatch
shanellhatch05@gmail.com

May 29, 2016

World of Clogging Dance
Championships
Cincinnati Airport Marriott
Cincinnati, OH
Jeff Driggs or Hanna Healy
304-776-9571
worldofclogging@aol.com
cloggingcontest.com
worldofclogging.com

June 18, 2016

Grand Challenge of Champions
(NCHC)
Branson, MO
David and Susan Phillips (678) 889-4355
gnccllog@gmail.com
gnccllog.webs.com

June TBD, 2016

Explosion Clogging Championships
(NCHC)
Cherokee, NC
Matt & Kelly Sexton (423) 282-5065
(423) 676-1305
DancExpCloggers@aol.com

Check with event coordinators to confirm event details!

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Jan McDonald, OR
Barbara Beasley, TN
Judith Kneipp, VA

For information on joining CLOG
visit our website at www.clog.org,
or contact us at 678-889-4355 or
clog@clog.org.



www.clog.org

(678) 889-4355 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**

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



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

33rd Annual CLOG National Convention ~ Nashville, TN ~

November 24-26, 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:

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

2800 Opryland Drive • Nashville, TN 37214-1297

Reservation Number:

1-866-972-6779

Register online - <https://aws.passkey.com/q/54603954>

GROUP ROOM RATES

Rate: \$118 1-4 ppl per room + tax

In addition \$15 per day per room Resort Fee is charged

Guaranteed Rate until 10/17/2016

Rooms will Sell Out—Reserve Yours Today!!

Register Online at www.clog.org/convention

INFO: www.Clog.org

678-889-4355

convention@clog.org

