

C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization



C.L.O.G. NATIONAL CONVENTION

By: Barbara Elko

Thanksgiving weekend, hundreds of cloggers assembled on the dance floors at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville Tennessee. What brought the menagerie of dancers together? The 33rd annual National C.L.O.G. convention, and it was a goodie! From start to finish the clogger's energy levels were in overdrive! It is hard to surpass the location of the Gaylord Hotel convenient to the airport, downtown, shopping, restaurants and live music everywhere! The hotel itself is breathtaking, particularly this time of the year. Every nook and cranny was decorated for the holidays.

The intricate operation of the mobile National Convention is amazing. Before the convention starts, plans for the following year are already underway. The continuous efforts of **Susan and David Phillips** and the Executive Committee, Conrad Copper and the Board of Directors are invisible, to us the dancer, as they plot to make each convention successful. The foundation of any convention is the dance floor. Floor managers **Jim Richling** and **Mark Wilson** eagerly waged war with the many sheets of flooring that must be unloaded, laid, taped, then lifted and reloaded for the trip back to Georgia. This year Melissa and Rob Pack provided the extra local help need to get the floors done. Johnnie Payton another local coordinator was in charge of the open teach halls, where four ladies tested for CCI. All four ladies passed and were awarded their certificates before the showcase Saturday evening. I met Johnnie Payton several years ago, but had time to get better acquainted this year. What a wonderful lady full of past clogging tales. A big thank you to Shannon and Terry Glass, the sound and technical coordinators. The t-shirt designs were great, registration ran smoothly, great vendors with a large variety of wares, to all those involved thank you jobs well done!

Wednesday and Thursday teaches were available in the open hall. Thursday several alternative options were offered. Zumba and/or line dance class with **Darolyn Pchajek** at the helm. These classes were insane fun, and a nice addition. She also taught several remarkable routines Friday and Saturday. Also offered was Yoga with **Andy Howard** demonstrating the stretches. As a participant I have to admit all that stretching was relaxing. He had several teaching spots during the convention. Many liked Boogie Bumper (lindy hop), and his routine to Aretha Franklin's song Think.

The last offering, I hope you are sitting down,,,,,was COOKING WITH JEFF DRIGGS. This class was a huge success! Due to space the number attending this class was limited. Everyone taking the class was impressed with his culinary skills. Jeff expressed how much he enjoyed this cooking experience. Afterwards he traded his spatula for clogging shoes and headed to the dance halls to teach several routines. He also and held a seminar title Dance games for audience engagement. Jeff shared and demonstrated ideas on how to get the crowd involved, which may entice some to try clog dancing.

The remarkable instructors on hand, with their concoction of routines, made it tough to choose. All the instructors did a fabulous job!

Chip Summey is known for his endless ways to accomplish a pull back. He showed this step called a Rock Slide, which essentially is a rock pull moving sideways. This move was comical especially when done in a box. You had to hope those around you were listening to his directions! **Barb Guenette** offered a couple routines to Cajun music. Her music selections are unusual and she loves to challenge the right foot! **Blake Dunn** held a "parking lot couple and group routine". The title of this class left some questions as to exactly what it was. Blake explained it is a simple couple/group routine that can be put together quickly. That was her description before she had to deal with yours truly! Blake being a diligent person was eventually successful conveying her ideas. This class was a blast!

Melissa and Rob Pack also demonstrated courage and held a Barn Dance Class. These two are experts in the area of traditional dance, and their classes are always tons of fun. Somehow, they can take a group of dancers who suddenly forgot left from right, totally confused as to who is the inside dancer, and make it come together! Melissa just opened her own dance studio in Lebanon, Tennessee congratulations!



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 Nashville!



*"Many can teach,
but only a precious few can
reach"*

We are proud to recognize our 4 newest CCI recipients! They completed their journey to certification with us in Nashville this year and all did an amazing job, including dealing with some technical difficulties like troopers!

Receiving their certification were:

Barbara Bizovie
Chynna Birkmire
CJ Conine
Sarah Dwight-Gilroy



Who will be next?

C.L.O.G. offers a variety of [educational "tracks"](#) within the CCI program:

[Certificate of Education](#)

[CCI Designation](#)

["Fast track" Certification program](#)

[International Certification](#)

On the beat.....

Appalachian Stomp

APPALACHIAN STOMP
SOME DAYS YOU GOTTA DANCE

By: Barbara Elko

The Blue Ridge Thunder Cloggers hosted another fantastic workshop. The action took place at the Carver Center in Purcellville Virginia. Three halls were opened, one of those was devoted to beginners. It is a bit unusual to have a beginners hall opened the entire day, but each year this hall fills. This young workshop has had steady growth. It is well organized, with great choices of national and local instructors. A slue of hard working friendly volunteers, and the fantastic wooden floors at the historical Carver Center guarantee a great day of clogging.



Andy Howard

National instructor Andy Howard opened the workshop with an intermediate routine to Think. He is a methodical teacher not moving forward until he believes everyone got it. After fully teaching a routine to Fiddlers Despair he backtracked demonstrating how a section of the routine could be changed to satisfy the advanced dancers. He painstakingly broke down the steps, the dancers really appreciated his extra effort. Andy admits after teaching a routine he looks for ways to improve the presentation. He has a huge dancing background, loves to share his knowledge, and his classes are lots of fun! He is the host of the Florida Clogging Festival being held February 11th in Kissimmee Florida.

Along with a couple intermediate routines, featured instructors Paul Melville and Kaitlyn Hedrick taught a traditional routine and basic. Every workshop should include a traditional routine they are always so much fun! These two also presented a silly routine to Hawaiian Rollercoaster, this one was a gut buster!

BRTC instructor, Mary Smith's selection of music as well as her routines to them are lets just say a bit off the beaten path. Although I never master some of her moves I endure her classes to the end because of her lighthearted humor. Well truth be told her candy rewards for staying in may hold me there!



Proof that Mary can get cloggers to do almost anything for candy!

For personal reasons my time at this workshop was limited. I was told by those who stay for its entirety that all the instructors did a great job, and the joviality continue into the evenings fun dance. Thanks Joyce Guthrie, Mary Smith, and all the volunteers and instructors for providing us the opportunity to be on a dance floor with friends and soon to be friends!

APPALACHIAN STOMP
NOVEMBER 4, 2017
FEATURING
JOSH KING



Gingers in action!



Soon-to-be BRTC dancer



(Continued from page 1)



After several appearances at nationals many folks are getting familiar with instructor Todd Harry. He resides in the state of Washington. His style is as distinctive as his baritone vocals. His teach to Dynamite was well received. Ann-Marie Sterling, a native Tennessean, was on the teaching staff. Her teaches were nicely paced, clear, and included some seldom used steps. Her entire family dances and she is hoping that her two young daughters continue the tradition. Andrew Perry taught a routine in the Anything Goes Hall. It was to a song titled When You Dance. Everyone who attended this class really liked the routine!

Gavin Cox was an introductory instructor. This young man is super talented and no stranger to the stage. He is employed at the Hatfield and McCoy clogging show in Pigeon Forge TN. His mom Sherry also taught at the convention. To-

gether they held an advanced steps and skills class. Naomi Pyle is an expected fixture at any national. She has a style and sense of humor that is uniquely hers. Another expected presence is mastermind Shane Gruber, leader of the legendary Shane Gang. Shane's imagination has no boundaries! No national is complete until the rhythmic sweet sounding taps of Missy Shinoski hit the stage. Missy has attended every National Convention, all thirty three, that is awesome! These folks not only bring great routines time and time again their delivery is highly entertaining!



Some time back C.L.O.G decided to add excursions on Friday night coinciding with the fun dance. These excursions have become very popular. This year a trip to the historic Ryman Theater was offered. While some remained at the hotel for the fun dance, three buses filled with cloggers headed to downtown Nashville. It was a great show in a stunning building.

Every year Don and Edie Farnum design and make a beautiful quilt. Raffle tickets were sold for a chance to win the quilt. All the money made from this raffle Don and Edie donate to C.L.O.G. This year a young girl nicknamed Tinkerbelle was the happy winner. Thanks Don and Edie for your generosity.



Andy Howard showcase producer thinks big. Every instructor had parts in the showcase. The theme was Harper Valley PTA. Many dance teams were enlisted, Evermean Evergreen(TN), Wills Mountain Cloggers(MD), Power Taps(GA), Delta Rhythm(TN), Judy's School of Dance (Canada) and the Tennessee Hoedowners(TN). Crowd pleasing solos were performed by Brittney Martin, and Gavin Cox. Missy Shinoski and Todd Harry teamed up to make the school announcements, this duo could be dangerous, they were just having too much fun. Jeff Driggs handled his part much like Jerry Lewis...everything he said, every facial expression, even his silence was hysterical! Shannon Glass brought the crowd to their feet while singing God Bless The USA. Lauren Shinoski skillfully sang and played the ukulele. Sherry Cox did a fine job singing Feel Like A Woman. Andy Howard sang O Canada beautifully. Naomi Pyle absolutely nailed her song Harper Valley PTA. Naomi also played the part of a pregnant nun, need I say more?

The fun dance following the showcase was great! Darolyn Pchajek, Andrew Perry, and Todd Harry led the dancers through familiar national dance list routines and some easy teaches. Much of the evening was spent saying goodbyes as the convention drew to an end. Again, thanks to everyone included the attendees who made this convention special!

I am compelled to share one last tale. It was late Saturday evening, so late that the Gaylord hotel was peacefully silent. I spotted this tiny figure smiling and humming as she walked across the bridge at the hotel. As the figure neared I realized it was Judy Waymouth. Held gingerly in her hands, as if she was toting her grandson, were her clogging shoes. I was a bit puzzled as to way she would be carrying her shoes at such a late hour so I inquired. She informed me that she was just returning from a place she wanted to dance at before leaving Nashville...Coyote Ugly. A bit surprised I tried to visualize this icon dancing on the bar top at Coyote Ugly. I asked, did you do it? Yes she said enthusiastically! I countered no...no way you didn't, so you just jumped up on the bar top and started clogging? This sweet lady's response ... No I got permission first. I am positive her dancing had the patrons hooting and hollering!

Dust off your cowboy hat cause next year we are heading to
SAN ANTONIO TEXAS
See Ya'll There



More Convention Pics!



AnnMarie's youngest gets her dance on!

Jeff Driggs and Judy Waymouth receive Hall of Fame honors. Well deserved!



Best decorated banner ...British Columbia!



State with most Attendees....Tennessee!



Parade of Nations still filing in!

On the beat.....

Reprinted from <http://www.aikenstandard.com/>

Abby Nicole Bowser has been named to the 2016 Junior All-American Clogging Team. The announcements were made at the American Hall of Fame Clogging World Championship held in Spartanburg last month.

This achievement had been a goal for Abby since making the South Carolina Palmetto's Finest clogging team in 2014. Abby began clogging at the age of 2. She had special clogging shoes made to accommodate her small size to include clogging taps.

The team consists of dancers across the United States that have attained special recognition for their leadership, enthusiasm, clogging skills, team spirit, and team dedication for many years.

The Junior All-American Team is selected each year through a nominating and selection process in which 24 of the best dancers are chosen to showcase their talents at the World Championships. The honored dancers chose a partner from the All-American Clogging team to perform the annual Hoedown celebration after they each received a special jacket of recognition. Abby dances with the Rhythm and Class Dance Studio in North Augusta and is a freshman at Strom Thurmond High School. She is pictured with her director, Mamie McAbee. Her dance team is "family" to her and she holds those friendships close to her heart.



Abby Bowser with director Mamie McAbee



PowerTaps take on London!

PowerTaps out of Woodstock, GA were in London to represent the USA and clogging in the London New Years Day Parade.

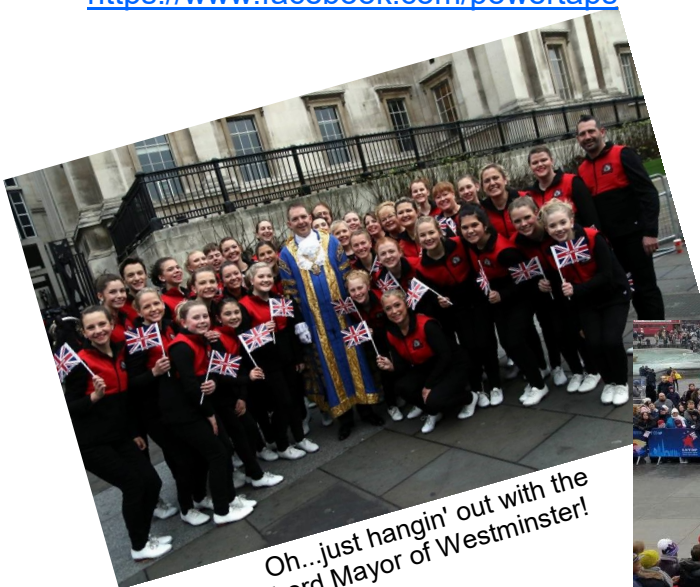
You can check out all the fun they had and see some great pictures and videos of their experience by checking out their Facebook page.

Here are just a few of their awesome moments!

<https://www.facebook.com/power taps>



Happy New Year from all of us to all of you.....from London!



Oh...just hangin' out with the Lord Mayor of Westminster!





Upcoming Events

January 27-29, 2017

Oregon Mid-Winter Festival
Albany, Oregon
Dances and Saturday Workshop Chairs
Connie Seamans 541-206-3950
connieseamans@comcast.net
Paul Gates 541-868-6931

March 9-11, 2017

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

March 10-11, 2017

37th Annual TCC Rally
Waco Convention Center
Waco, TX
texas-clogging.com

March 17-18, 2017

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

March 25, 2017

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

March 31-April 1, 2017

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

March 31-April 1, 2017

City Slicker Stomp
Independence, MO
Missy Shinoski 816-443-3030
kloghop@sbcglobal.net
www.CitySlickerStomp.info

April 6-8, 2017

Nickel City Clogging Festival
Adam's Mark Buffalo
Buffalo, NY
Hanna Healy 716-725-8415
wnyca.pres@gmail.com
wnyca.com

Check with event coordinators to confirm event details!

April 7-8, 2017

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

April 2017

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

April 21-22, 2017

Clogging in the Natural State
Ramada Inn Convention Hall
Mountain Home, AR
arkansasloggingcouncil.com

April 28-29, 2017

Swing Into Spring Clogging Workshop
Lake Cumberland State Park
Lake Cumberland, KY
Trevor DeWitt 317-670-8934
trevor@clogdancing.com
lakecumberlandworkshop.info

Competitions

February 11, 2017

Florida Clogging Festival (NCHC)
Osceola County Fair
Kissimmee, FL
Andy Howard 352-494-0104
americanracket@gmail.com
www.floridaclogging.com

March 25, 2017

Winterfest Clogging Invitational (NCHC)
Polk County High School
Columbus, NC
Chip Summey Ncjcs@aol.com

March 31-April 1, 2017

Northeast Clogging Competition (NCHC)
Cape Cod, MA
Beth Kendall 802-439-3349
bkendall@tops-tele.com
www.freewebs.com/necc

March 31-April 1, 2017

City Slicker Stomp
Independence, MO
Missy Shinoski 816-443-3030
kloghop@sbcglobal.net
www.CitySlickerStomp.info

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

April 1, 2017

Southern Junction Clogging
Championships (ACHF)
Wren High School Auditorium
Piedmont, SC
Gwen Stamp 864-299-8601
gwen@southernjunctioncloggers.com

April 2017

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

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Meredith Hudson, AL
Cara Newton, DE
Ashley Holloway, TX

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

C.L.O.G.
The National Clogging Organization, Inc.

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



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

34rd Annual CLOG National Convention ~ San Antonio, TX ~

November 23-25, 2017
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
Fun Dance & Excursion ~ Friday Evening
Showcase ~ Saturday Evening

Featuring:

Premier Clogging Instructors
Earlier Registration & Member Discounts

Schedule tentative and subject to Change



Hotel Info:

Hyatt Regency Hill Country
9800 Hyatt Resort Dr • San Antonio, TX 78251
[Hotel online Reservation](#)

GROUP ROOM RATES

Rate: \$129 1-4 ppl per room + tax
*Free Parking NO Resort Fee
Fridge in Every Room Free Internet
20 min From The Airport*

Guaranteed Rate until 11/2/2017

Rooms will Sell Out—Reserve Yours Today!!

Register Online at www.clog.org/convention
INFO: 678-889-4355 convention@clog.org

