

C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization

Thirty-Nine Routines In 12 Months: An Impossible Mission?

“Sharon better appreciate this!”

By Meg Kleinman, Prescott, AZ

The late afternoon was cool and gray. The smell of rain whirled by on the southwest wind. A girl in a red-hooded cape stood shocked and silent in the ancient churchyard. A single streak of sunlight brightened the weedy ground behind a crumbling gravestone, where the figure dressed in black bent over a shovel, digging up a pile of bones. Another, wearing a native robe and heavy necklaces of bone and teeth, danced and shook rattles of gourd and tortoise shell. For a long moment all three were motionless, as if frozen.



“Got it!” Our photographer, Luke, shouted to be heard over the wind. “That’s October.”

“Sharon better appreciate this!” burst out of our mouths in unison. It had become our mantra from the moment we realized what we had bitten off.

The plan started simply enough. Janet Maissen, Marta Wells and I would make a calendar for our instructors, Sharon and Tom Lopeman, for Christmas: twelve photos, maybe funny, maybe cute, showing something about clogging. But before long the ideas came pouring out, multiplying at a rate matched only by a pair of passionate rabbits. The final result was a decision to use photographs depicting the titles of clogging routines which Tom and Sharon would have to identify. A campaign of sneakiness and deception was laid out in intricate detail.

Phase One: The Plan. I drew the first task: make a list of possible routines. My reputation for trickery wasn’t as well-known as Marta’s and Janet’s, so Sharon wasn’t suspicious when, professing an interest in learning to cue, I asked to look through her cue books. I reported back with a list of 45 or 50 possibilities. We selected 39 and spent hours combining them into twelve scenes. Some of the routines fell naturally into a certain month: “Marry Me” in June, the graveyard scene in October. Every scene had at least two routines. November had the most — seven.

Phase Two: The Shoot. Challenges and adventures awaited us in designing, prepping and shooting each scene. We scrounged costumes, scouted locations, hunted down props, and juggled schedules to coordinate cast and crew. There was the embarrassing incident of the “wardrobe malfunction” involving Janet’s coconut bra (“Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride”). Marta and I risked our lives, teetering on crutches and braces at the edge of an algae-covered creek, while Janet, scrambling in the mud on the opposite bank, tried

(See “Mission”, continued on page 3)

CLOG Today

CLOG Today is published bi-monthly by

CLOG, Inc.
 2986 Mill Park Court
 Dacula GA USA 30019
 Phone: (678) 889-4355
 Fax: (603) 925-0967
 clog@clog.org
www.clog.org

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

Submission Deadlines:

| Issue: | Deadline: |
|-------------------|-------------|
| January-February | December 10 |
| March-April | February 10 |
| May-June | April 10 |
| July-August | June 10 |
| September-October | August 10 |
| November-December | October 10 |

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

Kelli McChesney
 CLOG Today Editor
 P O Box 1895
 Alachua, FL USA 32616
 (386) 462-KLOG (5564)
 clogtoday@clog.org

Original photos and flyers sent via postal mail and text files attached to e-mail are preferred. Advertisements must be camera-ready. Please send SASE for materials you wish to be returned.

Advertisement and classified pricing information available online or by contacting the editor.

| CLOG Today Staff: | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Editor: | Kelli McChesney |
| Layout: | Kelli McChesney |

| CLOG Board of Directors: | |
|--------------------------|--|
| President/Chairman: | Matt Pearson |
| Executive Co-Directors: | Susan Phillips David Phillips |
| Members: | Conrad Cooper, Sherry Cox, Reed Davis, Trevor DeWitt, Janice Hanzel, Marie Lovelace, Garland Steele, Chip Summey |

CLOG offers two membership classes: Gold (\$30.00 per year) and Silver (\$25.00 per year), US funds only. All membership includes exclusive access to CLOG Today extended features. Send address changes to CLOG, Inc.

The opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the editor, staff, CLOG, or the Board of Directors. CLOG Today reserves the right to use, edit, or withhold from publication any material submitted.

Advertising Potential

Hi Kelli,

Last summer the Lehigh Valley Cloggers came up with a way to advertise our group and our upcoming classes. We had a booth at two of the county fairs. In the booth we had our banner, costumes, a TV showing videos of our shows, flyers, business cards and a pair of clogging shoes.

We also had in our booth, photos of our group and most of the trophies that we have won over the years. It was a good way to display the trophies that usually sit on top of my china closet, with hardly anyone to see them.

We got quite a lot of exposure and our beginner class is the largest we have had in years.

Yours truly,

Mary Snyder
 Glen Gardner, NJ



CLOG Welcomes 15 New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to CLOG:

Scarlett "Libbi" Baldwin, TX
 Selina Baynard, TX
 Leah Coffman, ID
 Glory Cordett, MT
 Lois Elling, CA
 Isabelle Jensen, CA
 Kara Kearsley, ID
 Meredith MacNevin, NC

Emma Peckham, WA
 Jenny Pettingill, HI
 Charlene Rahn, CO
 Jayme Smith, PA
 Dianna Sovine, WA
 Diana Stockdale, MO
 Paula Anne Weber, AZ

For information on joining CLOG and the benefits of becoming a member, fill out and send in the application in this issue or at our web site at www.clog.org, or contact us at 678-889-4355, clog@clog.org.

(“Mission”, continued from page 1)

to get a good shot (“Cripple Creek”). We frantically searched roadsides for thistles to make a wig for “Thistlehair, the Christmas Bear.” Each time, the refrain: “Sharon better appreciate this!”

We thought we’d received the ultimate compliment to our talents and ingenuity after the “Marry Me” shoot. My shotgun-toting husband, Tim, played the angry father of the bride; Janet’s teenage nephew, Luke, was the stoic, tuxedoed groom. Bride Marta, old enough to be Luke’s mother, wore a wedding gown with a conspicuous tummy bulge. I was the grief-stricken mother of the groom, sobbing into a black lace hanky. Janet wore a graduation robe as the minister. We posed in front of a small neighborhood church. Cars crept by, nearly stopping to watch. As we finished, a car slowed, made a U-turn and pulled into the nearest parking space. A woman stuck her head out of the window and called to us. “We’re from Wisconsin and we’ve never seen a shotgun wedding,” she said. “Can I take your picture?” This was too good. We controlled our laughter long enough to pose, then completely lost it when the woman yelled, “Congratulations!” as they drove away.



Marta Wells, Meg Kleinman, and Janet Maissen of Arizona’s Lynx Creek Cloggers pose for their calendar cover photo.

Phase Three: The Tease. After the final shoot — a “glamour shot” for the cover — we sent Sharon and Tom a CD in the style of *Mission Impossible*, explaining they would soon receive a package with “enigmas” they would be required to solve. We wrote clues to the titles of the routines. Of course, they weren’t as simple as they might have been. For instance, the clue for “Little Red Riding Hood” was “Lilliputian endangered canis bait, wearing a ruby cowl for protection while being conveyed.” And “Polynesian metal apparatus with steep drops to generate excitement” was “Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride.” Well, we couldn’t make them *too* easy! The biggest Phase Three disaster was mailing the CD to Sharon and Tom’s old address.

Phase Four: The Revelation. Every year, many of the Lynx Creek Cloggers go to a restaurant to celebrate after our annual Christmas performance. That would be the perfect place. I warned the management what to expect so they wouldn’t be

alarmed and call the police; Janet got the costumes together; Marta volunteered to wear the handcuffs.

The night of December 8th, 2006, was cold and clear. We danced on the Courthouse Square for more than two hours, while Marta greatly exaggerated the soreness of a toe she injured in class the night before. She told Sharon we would go to Janet’s to rest and soak the toe, and join them at the restaurant a little later. At the house, we changed into black trench coats, fedoras, and sunglasses...a *Men in Black* thing. A briefcase, containing the “package of enigmas” (the calendar) and a kitchen timer, was handcuffed to Marta’s wrist, and after a couple of run-throughs, we set off.

We pulled into the restaurant parking lot and gasped. The lot was nearly full, and at least six of the vehicles were County Sheriffs! There we were, trying very hard to look like spies — though Marta looked more like

(See “Mission”, continued on page 5)

GOOD LOVIN' (MAKES IT RIGHT)**Tammy Wynette**

Level: Easy Intermediate
 Choreo: Edie Hund, CPS
 509 E Gay St.
 Phone: (520) 887-4291; Cell: (520) 404-5831
 E-Mail: edieclog@aol.com

Music: CD: "Country Legends: Tammy Wynette,"
 Green Hill GHD 5385, Track 5
 Tucson AZ 85705-3610

Sequence: A,B,C,A,D,D,ENDING

Wait 8, Left foot lead

PART A (32)

(16) 2 High Horse
 DS DT(xif) L/C DT(ux) L/C BALL(ib) STEP(xif) BALL(xib) L/S DS DS RS
 L R R/L R R/L R L R L/C L R LR
 (R to Back and Front) DS DT(xif) L/C DT(ux) L/C BALL(ib) STEP(xif) BALL(xib) L/S DS DS RS
 R L L/R L l/r L R L R/L R L RL

(8) 2 Joey
 DS(fwd) BALL(xib) BALL(os) BALL(fwd) BALL(xib) BALL(os) STEP
 L R L R L R L
 DS(fwd) BALL(xib) BALL(os) BALL(fwd) BALL(xib) BALL(os) STEP
 R L R L R L R

(8) 2 Charleston Brush
 DS TCH(xif) CLICK TCH(xib) CLICK BRUSH L/C
 L R L R L R R/L
 DS TCH(xif) CLICK TCH(xib) CLICK BRUSH L/C
 R L R L R L L/R

PART B (32)

(8) 1 Samantha
 DS DS(xif) DRAG STEP(xib) SLIDE STEP RS(ib) DS DS RS
 L R R L L R LR L R LR

(8) 2 Long Charleston
 DS TCH(xif) CLICK BALL(xib) HEEL(xib) TCH(xib) CLICK
 L R L R R L R

(4) 1 Devil
 DS DS(xif) BALL(xib) L/S BALL(xib) STEP(xif)
 L R L R/L R L
 &1 &2 & 3 & 4

(4) 1 Night
 DS DT(xif) L/C DT(ots) L/C RS
 L R L R L RL
 &1 2 & 3 &4

(8) 2 Rocking Chair
 DS(1/2L) BRUSH L/C DS BALL STEP
 L R R/L R L R

PART C (32)

(16) 2 Bonanzas
 DS DS(xif) DT L/C DT L/C DS(xib) RS(xif) DS BR L/S
 L R L L/R L L/R L RL R L L/R

(8) 2 Joey

(8) 2 Mountain Goat
 DS(ib) BALL(xif) BALL(xib) BALL(os) BALL(os) BALL(xib) L/S
 L R L R L R R/L
 DS(ib) BALL(xif) BALL(xib) BALL(os) BALL(os) BALL(xib) L/S
 R L R L R L L/R

(8) 2 Outhouse
 DS TCH(os) L/C TCH(xif) L/C TCH(os) L/C
 L R R/L R R/L R R/L
 DS TCH(os) L/C TCH(xif) L/C TCH(os) L/C
 R L L/R L L/R L L/R

REPEAT PART A (2 High Horse, 2 Joey, 2 Charleston Brush)

GOOD LOVIN' (MAKES IT RIGHT)

Page 2 of 2

PART D (32)

- (8) 1 Samantha
 (8) 2 Long Charleston
 (8) 2 Hillbilly DS TCH(fwd) L/C TCH(fwd) L/C TCH(fwd) L/C
 Diagonally L R R/L R R/L R R/L
 L&R DS TCH(fwd) L/C TCH(fwd) L/C TCH(fwd) L/C
 R L L/R L L/R L L/R
 (8) 2 Push-off DS(os) BALL STEP(os) BALL STEP(os) BALL STEP(os)
 L&R L R L R L R L
 DS(os) BALL STEP(os) BALL STEP(os) BALL STEP(os)
 R L R L R L R

REPEAT PART D (1 Samantha, 2 Long Charleston, 2 Hillbilly, 2 Push-off, L&R)**ENDING (8)**

- (8) 1 Samantha



It's Time!

Renew your liability insurance for 2007!

Visit www.clog.org to download an application or more information.

(“Mission”, continued from page 3)

one of the Three Stooges — with our collars pulled up and our hats pulled down, a briefcase, handcuffs. And we had to walk straight into a room full of cops! With a heartfelt “Sharon better appreciate this!,” we went in.

“Mouthpiece” Janet led us toward the back. Marta next and I, as the “muscle,” brought up the rear. The deputies looked us over as we went by, but thankfully did nothing. The cloggers burst out laughing when they saw us. Sharon heckled us, claiming she would never feel sorry for Marta or her toe again.

Janet said her lines and set the timer on the table with a menacing command not to open the package until the timer went off. We turned to leave as solemnly as we had arrived. Suddenly, the whole room erupted in applause. Nearly 50 strangers. What a thrilling moment: the culmination of months of clandestine activities.

We went out to the car, laughing and hugging each other, and peeled off our costumes. Back inside we found Sharon holding the timer, counting down the seconds.

Much later, as we got ready to leave the restaurant, Sharon shook her head and said, “What will you guys think of next?”

Marta, Janet and I looked at each other and smiled. We’d already started on next year.



Meg, Marta, and Janet surprise clogging instructors Tom and Sharon Lopeman with their 2006 Christmas gift, a “package of enigmas”.

FELIZ NAVIDAD**Jose Feliciano**

Level: Easy Beginner
 Choreo: Edie Hund, CPS
 509 E Gay St
 Tucson AZ 85705-3610
 Phone: (520) 887-4291; Cell: (520) 404-5831
 E-mail: edieclog@aol.com

Music: Tape: "A Merry Christmas
 from Nat "King" Cole, Anne Murray,
 The Beach Boys, Julie Andrews, and
 Others," Side B, Track 4, Regency,
 V40038
 Sequence: A,B,A,B,A,B,ENDING

Wait 16, Left Foot Lead

PART A (32)

- (16) 2 Clogover DS(ots) DS(xif) DS(ots) DS(xib) DS(ots) DS(xif) DS(os) BALL STEP
 Vine, L R L R L R L R L
 L&R DS(ots) DS(xif) DS(ots) DS(xib) DS(ots) DS(xif) DS(os) BALL STEP
 R L R L R L R L R
- (12) 3 Outhouse DS TCH(diag ots) CLICK TCH(xif) CLICK TCH(diag ots) CLICK
 L&R L R L R L R L
 DS TCH(diag ots) CLICK TCH(xif) CLICK TCH(diag ots) CLICK
 R L R L R L R
- (4) 1 Triple DS DS DS BALL STEP
 R L R L R

PART B (32)

- (16) 4 Rocking DS(1/4L) BRUSH LIFT/CLICK, DS BALL STEP
 Chair, L R R /L R L R
 1/4L
- (16) 4 Vine DS DS(xib) DS(os) BALL STEP DS DS(xib) DS(os) BALL STEP
 L&R L R L R L R L R L R

Repeat Part A (2 Clogover Vine L&R, 3 Outhouse L&R, 1 Triple)

Repeat Part B (4 Rocking Chair 1/4L, 4 Vine L&R)

Repeat Part A (2 Clogover Vine L&R, 3 Outhouse L&R, 1 Triple)

Repeat Part B (4 Rocking Chair 1/4L, 4 Vine L&R)

ENDING (16)

- (16) 2 Clogover Vine L&R

FELIZ NAVIDAD1, 10/06

***We want to see your
 choreography!!***

To have your routine
 considered for publication, mail
 or e-mail your cue sheet to:

Kelli McChesney, Editor
 P O Box 1895
 Alachua, FL 32616
 clogtoday@clog.org