

C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization

Cloggers add a modern twist

Reprinted from The Gainesville Sun, by Cindy Swirko, Feb, 14, 2015

The dancers jamming at the Alachua County Fairgrounds on Saturday were cloggers, but this was definitely not your great-grandpappy's version of the dance that tapped to life in Appalachia.

"You have to keep it young and fun," said a sweaty Kyle Kirkland, a workshop instructor, in between "Uptown Funk" and the "Swagger Jagger" that followed. "You have to evolve it to keep it alive."

To be sure, plenty of the traditional mountain music that spawned clogging was featured Saturday at the first-ever Florida Clogging Festival, which included workshops and competitions.

But it was clear from the dozens of dancers — gray-haired to elementary kids — on the floor for "All About That Bass" that contemporary clogging is a kick.

The festival was organized by Gainesville clogger Andy Howard, 35, who began dancing when he was 8. It drew more than 100 dancers on eight teams, plus the workshops to learn moves and routines.

"Gainesville and surrounding areas have a legacy of clogging. If it's in your blood, you have to boil it up," Howard said. "In order to go to nationals (competition), the teams have to qualify at a regional event, and Florida hasn't had a regional event in several years. This worked out really well for us."

Clogging shoes have heel and toe taps. Rhythm is generally kept with the heel tap on the music's downbeat. Standard heel movements and toe movements include steps, slides, taps and double taps, and foot drags and brushes. Contemporary clogging adds hops, kicks, stomps and other moves.

For some cloggers, dancing is a family affair. Brittany Ferlita, 30, of Tampa, started clogging at age 4, following in the footsteps of her mom and grandmother.

On Saturday, Ferlita's 14-month-old daughter, Makenna, was competing for the first time in the freestyle category.

"My favorite is contemporary — the modern stuff. I like the footwork of it, the challenge," Ferlita said. "I went on tour for 10 years. I went on a nationwide tour my first year. Then I auditioned for a worldwide tour that traveled to Ireland, Switzerland, Taiwan. It was similar to Riverdance and was called Magic of the Dance. I showed them what clogging was, which was awesome."

Riverdance popularized Irish step dancing through tours and television shows — for years it was a PBS fundraising staple. Irish dance is similar to clogging, and Ferlita said most cloggers would love for their dance to rise in popularity to Riverdance heights. Among the teams competing on Saturday was Clogging Connection of Plant City, whose youth members wore black jackets and T-shirts with glittery lettering. Several of the kids also had stuffed animals, including one with taps on its feet.

As Vickie Edwards dutifully put shorts and a top on the stuffed animal of her daughter, Kendylle Edwards, she talked of how Kendylle dove into clogging a year ago at age 7 despite no one else in the family dancing.



Clyde Hamilton teaches a group the clogging routine Green Country Mountain during the inaugural Florida Clogging Festival, held at the Alachua County Fair Grounds in Gainesville Feb. 14, 2015 (photo by Brad McClenney/The Gainesville Sun)

CLOG Today

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David & Susan Phillips, Executive Directors
2986 Mill Park Court
Dacula GA USA 30019
Phone: (678) 889-4355 • Fax: (603) 925-0967
clog@clog.org • www.clog.org

Send address changes to CLOG, Inc.

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CLOG Today Staff

Editor:	Pam Smiley 800 Hammershire Rd Owings Mills, Md 21117 410-504-5775 clogtoday@clog.org
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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

Baltimore Inner Harbor

From family-friendly museums and restaurants to satisfy every palate, to exciting nightlife, cultural experiences and spectacular people-watching, Baltimore's Inner Harbor offers more to see and do than you can imagine.

Things to Around Baltimore Harbor

Inner Harbor visitors could come back day after day and still have plenty to see and explore. Looking for ideas for things to do around the bustling center of Baltimore? Here are some of our Inner Harbor favorites:

- ♦ **Take a Cruise on the Bay with Watermark**
Cruise the Inner Harbor and beyond on the 65-foot BIG RED BOAT. Choose from daily, 45-minute narrated cruises; a Friday night, 90-minute "Key Bridge Cruise"; or a Saturday night, 60-minute "City Lights Cruise."
- ♦ **Visit the Maryland Science Center**
Let your senses and mind wander as you explore the numerous hands-on activities at the **Maryland Science Center**. Featuring an IMAX theater and planetarium, it's sure to please all visitors.
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- ♦ **Get Close to Nature at the National Aquarium**
The National Aquarium in Baltimore houses sharks, dolphins, rays and tropical fish among the more than 17,000 creatures in naturalistic exhibits, including a walk-through rain forest; an exciting live-action dolphin show; a 4-D Immersion Theater and an Australian exhibit featuring a 35-foot waterfall. This spectacular aquarium is sure to be a hit with the kids (including the "big" ones!).
- ♦ **Visit Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine**
At Fort McHenry, you can learn about the Battle of Baltimore and experience events like living history weekends, where the Fort McHenry Guard performs demonstrations — all just a water taxi ride away from the Inner Harbor.
- ♦ **Shop 'til You Drop at Harborplace and The Gallery**
Located in the heart of the Inner Harbor on Pratt Street, **Harborplace and The Gallery** offer unique shopping, diverse dining and a variety of entertainment right on the picturesque waterfront.
- ♦ **Dine in Style at Baltimore Inner Harbor Restaurants**
Elegant gourmet cuisine, ethnic foods from around the world and plenty of fresh seafood from Maryland's Chesapeake Bay can be found at the many **Inner Harbor restaurants**.

A block away from Baltimore's Inner Harbor is **Power Plant Live!**, a premier dining and entertainment district that features a variety of restaurants and nightclubs surrounding a common plaza. There is also outdoor seating, which often features live performances.

Come Visit Baltimore!

National CLOG Convention 2015

November 26-28, 2015

On the beat.....

BMC on the Road Again

Support Mars Hill clogging team's festival dreams

Reprinted from the Asheville Citizen-Times, by Carol Motsinger, Nov 28, 2014



The Bailey Mountain Cloggers are such an institution at Mars Hill University that it's easy to wonder if the dance team wasn't named after a nearby ridge. But maybe that mountain was named after the cloggers.

Organized in 1974, the team has won the national championships for clogging teams 21 times, including the most recent title this fall.

And now the current team of 25 needs the community's help to travel thousands of miles away from its namesake.

The group is raising money to attend a trio of folk dance festivals in France, England and Greece in 2015. "We have been given an incredible opportunity," said Danielle Buice Plimpton, the team's manager. "We would be representing the United States amongst all of

these countries ... and we could potentially perform for thousands and thousands of people."

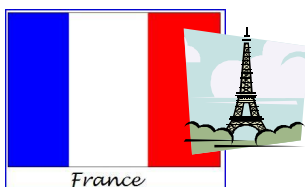
The Bailey Mountain Cloggers will host a silent auction and perform Dec. 6 at Moore Auditorium at Mars Hill University. They also are accepting donations through an online community funding campaign through Go Fund Me (Find more at <http://baileymountaincloggers.yolasite.com>).

The group needs to raise \$40,000 to pay for the student travel; the festival organizations will provide lodging and food once they make it to Europe. The performances would start in July and end in mid-August, Plimpton said. The cloggers collected local artist and business donations, as well as vacation packages for the silent auction, she added. "It would be quite the honor," senior dancer Paul Melville said of performing at the festivals. Melville, 29, hails from Florida, and traveled with a professional team before joining the Mars Hill University team. He took some time between high school and college to travel the world with a competitive clogging team, from Korea to Costa Rica. "There are only a handful of clogging teams that travel internationally," Melville said. "You really are cultural ambassadors," he added.

The Bailey Mountain Cloggers have performed throughout the United States and internationally in Canada, Mexico, England, Scotland, Austria and Ireland, to name a few. Plimpton traveled with the team when she was a student performer at Mars Hill from 2002-06. She's been the team's director since she graduated, she said. "What first reeled me in was the opportunity to dance and clog at a university on scholarship," she said. "You don't really hear about that often." She said the competitive clogging world has been "getting harder and harder" since her time as a student. "The performance level is getting higher and higher," Plimpton said.

The current team, with members from nine states, learned 15 new routines in about two months for the October national championship, for instance. "They work really hard and are super dedicated," she said. "They are like a family." Plimpton also praised the group's performance entertainment value. "That's number one," she said. "A clogging performance is very high-energy, full of personality," Plimpton noted. "It's kind of like tap dance, but a lot harder, louder and with a lot more energy." Melville described their performance style as more of like fireworks than a burning candle.

"Mars Hill is recruiting people from all over the place," he said. "They pull the best of the best." The group are great cloggers, he said, just part of the team's value — and one reason why their trip abroad should be supported. When the group traveled to England to perform, members reversed other team's negative expectations about Americans, he said. "We were one of the first teams to integrate (with the other teams)," he said. "The group was very social, thankful and appreciate. I had never seen that before. It was the coolest thing."



Choreo Corner.....

TORNADO

Artist: Little Big Town

Choreo: Barbara Elko South Park, PA

Pioneerclloggers@gmail.com

Sequence: Wait 8 A - Chorus - Break - B - 2xChorus- Bridge - Break- 2xChorus - Break** B/End

PART A: CLOGOVER LEFT & RIGHT
2 ROCK FORWARDS (Dia. Left then Right)
SAMANTHA (1/2R)
---REPEAT above to face front

CHORUS: RAISE THE ROOF (palms up & pumping)
SPIN AROUND (360R) (hands up & circling)
COWBOY(palms up on Br palms down & pumping on RS)

BREAK: 2 SWING BASICS (1/4L on each basic)
JAZZ BOX

PART B: 2 KY SLUR TURNS
2 ROCK FORWARDS (Dia. Left then Right)
SAMANTHA (no turn)

CHORUS: Raise the Roof, Spin Around(360R), Cowboy

CHORUS: Raise the Roof, Spin Around(360R), Cowboy

BRIDGE: VINE 4 & ROCKING CHAIR(1/4L) JOEY & TRIPLE(1/4L)to face back
---REPEAT above to face front

BREAK: 2 SWING BASICS (1/4L on each basic)
JAZZ BOX

CHORUS: Raise the Roof, Spin Around(360R), Cowboy

CHORUS: Raise the Roof, Spin Around(360R), Cowboy

BREAK** 1 SWING BASIC NO TURN
JAZZ BOX

PART B/End 2 KY SLUR TURNS, 2 BASICS, DOUBLE FLAP TOUCH(point index finger)

STEPS:

CLOGOVER VINE DS DS DS DS DS DS DS RS DS DS DS DS DS DS DS RS
L R L R L R L RL R L R L R L R LR
&1 &2 &3 &4 &5 &6 &7 &8 &1 &2 &3 &4 &5 &6 &7 &8

2 - ROCK FORWARD DS R(if)S R(if)S R(if)S DS R(if)S R(if)S R(if)S
L R L R L R L R L R L R L R
&1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &1 & 2 & 3 & 4

(Continued from page 4)

SAMANTHA DS DS(xif) DR S DR S RS DS DS RS
 L R R L L R LR L R LR
 &1 &2 & 3 & 4 &5 &6 &7 &8

RAISE THE ROOF DS R(if)S R(if)S R(if)S
 L R L R L R L
 &1 & 2 & 3 & 4

SPIN AROUND DS RS RS RS (360L)
 R LR LR LR
 &1 &2 &3 &4

COWBOY DS DS DS BR/UP DS(xif) RS RS RS
 L R L R R LR LR LR
 &1 &2 &3 &4 &5 &6 &7 &8

SWING BASIC DS(1/4L) RS Kick(xif) S R S Kick(xif) S R S DS(1/4L) RS
 L RL R R L R L L R L R LR
 &1 &2 & 3 & \$ & 5 & 6 &7 &8

JAZZ BOX T/H(ots) T/H(xif) T/H(xib) T/H(ots)
 L R L R
 &1 &2 &3 &4

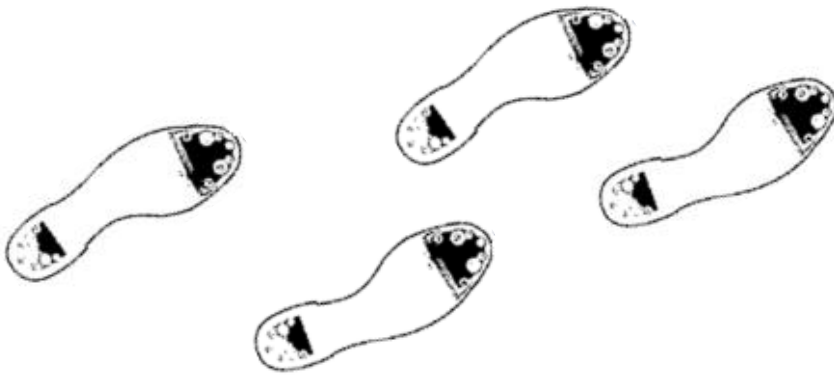
KY SLUR TURN DS DR S(xif) DS DS(xib) R S(if) SLUR/S(1/2L) DS RS
 L L R L R L R L R L R LR
 &1 & 2 &3 &4 & 5 &6 &7 &8

4 COUNT VINE DS DS DS DS
 L R L R
 &1 &2 &3 &4

ROCKING CHAIR DS BR/UP(1/4L) DS RS
 L R R LR
 &1 &2 &3 &4

JOEY DS B(xib) B(ots) B(ots) B(xib) B(ots) S
 L R L R L R L
 &1 & 2 & 3 & 4

DOUBLE FLAP TCH DS DS(xib) R Heel(if) Flap Toe/Touch(xib)



On the beat.....**Cloggers on Parade!**

Happy feet: Woodstock, GA cloggers to take part in Philadelphia Dunkin' Donuts parade

(reprinted from the Cherokee Tribune Nov. 25, 2014)

Nearly two dozen cloggers from Woodstock will travel to Pennsylvania this week to perform in one of the oldest Thanksgiving Day parades in the country.

On Thursday, a group of 22 dancers from PowerTaps Clogging studio in Woodstock, GA will perform to Christmas music in the 6ABC Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia.

With cloggers ranging in age from 9 to 42, PowerTaps Clogging owner and Director Marci Rickard said this trip will be an excellent experience for the dancers.

"This opportunity is very special and unique," she said of the 1.4-mile parade, now celebrating its 95th year.

Included in the parade are giant balloons and floats, and performers of all kinds. Rickard said the cloggers from her group will perform to Christmas music on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, near the end of route.



Making the day even more special for the Woodstock performers, the cloggers were invited to appear on Good Morning America at about 7:30 a.m., Rickard said. The group will perform a short part of their clogging routine behind a correspondent reporting live from Philadelphia.

Everyone in the group has been practicing since September for the performance, Rickard said, adding the cloggers were "excited and honored."

The studio in downtown Woodstock has about 125 dancers, Rickard said.

Operating in Cherokee County for 11 years, the group competes and performs out of state regularly, the owner said.

The group was invited to participate in the Philadelphia parade after a producer saw the dancers last year performing at Walt Disney World, Rickard said.

Additionally, PowerTaps cloggers were invited to travel to London to perform in 2017, Rickard said, and the group is also looking forward to that.

PowerTaps cloggers are set to appear on Good Morning America between 7:20 and 7:40 a.m., and for those outside the Philadelphia viewing area, the parade will be online at www.6abc.com. The cloggers' performance is anticipated to be aired between 11:30 and 11:50 a.m.



(Continued from page 1)

"She likes the noise," Edwards said. "She loves to dance and she loves music. I don't know why she chose clogging. I don't have an answer, but I really think it's the noise."

Clogging is practiced in other countries. Among the participants Saturday was Nathan Ballard, of Brisbane, Australia. He has been traveling the U.S. for several months to learn more about clogging. He plans to share what he learns with Australian cloggers when he returns home.

"We've had clogging for 25 or 30 years. We still have a lot of dancers, but it's not really evolving," Ballard said. "The point of this trip was to see different ways that American cloggers orchestrate their competition and workshops. This is where it started."



Upcoming Events

April 17-18, 2015

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

April 17-19, 2015

Northern California Cloggers Association
Convention
Modesto, CA
Richard Willyard (925) 783-2286
BCCRRichard@att.net
Kellee Ramirez (916) 873-8119
kelclogs34@gmail.com
www.ncca-inc.com

April 23-25, 2015

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

April 25, 2015

NorthWest Cloggers Association Oldies
Workshop
Federal Way, WA
nwcloggers.com

May 1-2, 2015

City Slicker Stomp
Hartman Conference Center
Independence, MO
Missy Shinoski kloghop@sbcglobal.net
www.CitySlickerStomp.Info

May 9, 2015

Garden State Stomp
Westampton, NJ
Debbie Shinn (856) 231-8822
renegadeclloggers@yahoo.com

May 16, 2015

Dallas Clogging Workshop
Sterling Hotel
Dallas, TX
Glen McCrary (214) 455-1716
dallascloggingworkshop@yahoo.com

May 22-24, 2015

Memorial Weekend Workshop
Circle 8 Ranch
Elum, WA
Jeri Staheli (425) 353-0656
www.countrycloggers.org

May 22-24, 2015

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

Competitions

April 25, 2015

Clogfest (CCA)
Brevard Music Center
Whittington-Pfohl Aud
Brevard, NC
.Rhonda Wallen rwallen543@charter.net
Kevin Parries ccakevin@aol.com

April 25, 2015

Appalachian Clogging Classic (ACHF)
Haywood Community College Auditorium
Clyde, NC
Dianne Loftin (864) 277-0553
dloftin01@gmail.com

May 2, 2015

City Slicker Stomp Competition (NCHC)
Top Dog Clogging Classic (CAD)
Hartman Conference Center
Independence, MO
Missy Shinoski kloghop@sbcglobal.net
www.CitySlickerStomp.Info

May 2-3, 2015

Dollywood Clogging Classic (NCHC)
Pigeon Forge, TN
David & Susan Phillips dcclog@gmail.com
Flyer and Registration Forms:
Dollywood Registration Book 2015 and Forms.pdf
Excel Registration Form for Dollywood Clogging

May 16, 2015

Beach Blast (ACHF)
Cape Fear Middle School
Rocky Point, NC
Jessica Larson (910) 604-0879
missjessica@dancerscornerstudio.com

May 22-24, 2015

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

June 6, 2015

Big Horn Mountain Showdown (NCHC)
Buffalo, WY
Shanell Hatch (307) 620-0282
shanellhatch@yahoo.com

June 20, 2015

Grand Challenge of Champions (NCHC)
Oak Ridge Boys Theatre
Branson, MO
David and Susan Phillips (678) 889-4355
gnccllog@gmail.com gnccllog.webs.com
Registration Book and Form in PDF
Excel Registration Form

June 28, 2015

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

July 11, 2015

The Power All Star Challenge (NCHC)
Woodstock High School
Woodstock, GA
Ryan & Marci Rickard (770) 639-7275
ryanrickard@comcast.net
www.powertapsclogging.com/allstarchallenge

July 19, 2015

Fusion Fest (NCHC)
Newton, NC
Stafanie Grubbs, 336-918-6269

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Clay Barnhart, FL
Grace Allen, OR
Alfred Williamson, MD
Montana Jill Hale, KY

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**

Check with event coordinators to confirm event details!

*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

**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

INFO: www.Clog.org

678-889-4355

convention@clog.org

