

C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization



AT THE HOP -NICKEL CITY 2016

By: Barbara Elko

Once again Hanna Healy, numerous volunteers, and incredible instructors put together a workshop that was insane fun! The theme this year, Sock Hop, produced more energy than an nuclear power plant! It is no mystery why this workshop is so successful ... hard work by people who aim to please. Thank you all so much, the Nickel City Festival is a masterpiece!

Upon arrival the dancers stabled their horses, and the weekend bash began. The hotel welcomed the cloggers with beverages and trays of huge cookies. Watching the mounds of luggage, coolers, and costumes being hauled in was a sight to behold.

This substantiates the old saying "Can't leave home without it." A ton of happy reunions took place in the lobby.

A fun dance Thursday night kick the weekend into gear. The hip cool cats on the dance floor were cranked. The King (Elvis) of rock and roll even made an appearance at the fun dance, although he looked a bit like Shane Gruber. The energized crowd was tireless. The mention of an 8am Zumba class became a reality check, and reluctantly folks headed to their pads. Kerri Orthner, Darolyn Pchajek, and Kellee Ramirez were the wardens for both Friday and Saturday morning Zumba classes. The number of early risers participating was surprising. This class was a true wake up call!

This was Andy Howard's debut as a Nickel City instructor, and he absolutely rocked! He had routines to every style of music Bluegrass, Country, Jazz, Oldies, and Pop. He even held a seminar of the History of Clogging. His routine to Fiddlers Despair was a real crowd pleaser. Andy was a welcomed addition to the teaching staff.

The return of Nathan Ballard, a native Australian, caused quite a frenzy among the dancers. He is eager to share what he knows, and just as eager to learn what he does not know. During his teach of Fire & Flood the dancers chuckled as he cued Bull Slide(ball slide). Nathan has a bit of an accent which just adds to his charm. Safe travels to our eye candy from down under!

Shane Gruber is adventurous with some of his music selections. Rock and Roll Mama, rockabilly, fit into this category. Other than a great teach, one never knows what to expect from this fabulous instructor!

Instructor Darolyn Pchajek from Winnipeg Canada brings excitement to the dance floor. She loves sharing her choreography, in fact many of her routines can be viewed on her you tube channel daretoclog. Her energy is as boundless as her smile.

Chip Summey is a charismatic instructor. His teaches quickly fill dance halls. Chip's creativity on variations of a pull back are endless. He taught several at Nickel City, rock pull, pull it back, split pull, drag back, and rock heel pulls. Seriously, someone needs to contact Guinness Book of Records!

Dancers eagerly attend her classes. Judy Waymouth, is a compact bundle of talent. In recognition of her numerous contributions to clog dancing she was inducted into the Nickel City Hall of Fame. An award she truly earned and deserves. Thank you Judy!

Naomi Pyle's boisterous spirit spreads through a dance



Instructors Back: Andrew, Kerri, Nathan, Chip, Andy, Darolyn, Naomi, Jeff. Front: Bekka, Colleen, Missy, Kellee

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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.

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.

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!



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

Enroll today to experience the education of the Certified Clogging Instructor Program and the teaching tips from more than 50 established clogging instructors.

When you apply for CCI you'll be on your way to improving your instructional skills. You'll join a select group of men and women who have made the ultimate commitment to excellence in clogging instruction, career advancement and the on-going pursuit of knowledge.

FAQs

Do I have to be a clogging instructor to participate in the seminars and become a certified instructor?

- No

I have been a clogging instructor for many years, how will becoming certified help me?

- The benefits of networking with other instructors who have completed their certification and those you meet during and after you have completed the program
- Information obtained from the CCI staff and other instructors are priceless for continued success in teaching

What does the CCI program consist of?

- Class Work – 3 Day Seminar.
 - ◊ A Certificate of Education is given after completion of seminars
- Course Work – Completion of mandatory and elective points
 - ◊ Course work is only mandatory to become certified

What do I do first?

- Register for, pay associated fees, and complete the CCI Seminars.
 - ◊ These are held yearly at the National Clogging Convention and some other state clogging organizations also host CCI Seminars. Check the CLOG website and local organizations for Seminar locations
- Candidates must be 16 years or older
- Once Seminars are completed, a mentor will be assigned to help the CCI candidates through the completion of the program
- Candidates will have three years in which to complete certification
 - ◊ Completion consists of gathering a total of 1000 points

What do I do when I have completed my points and my mentor signs off for me to test?

- Fill out and pay fee for Intent to test and test out
 - ◊ The test consists of:
 - Written Exam
 - Practical Exam
 - ◊ Once tests are passed, candidates are awarded their certification

On the beat.....

Back to Back Champs!

(Continued from page 1)

hall like wild fire. Never short on words, laughter, or new routines, the dancers flock to her teaches. Along with several line routines she taught a couples dance to Dear Future Husband. Assisting her during this teach was Chris Phelps, he is a fantastic dancer/instructor from Michigan.



Morgan

If you walk into Morgan Hudson's class and he is wearing bib jeans get ready for some Bluegrass! "Rubber legs" is from Kentucky and he shines teaching this style of music. His routine, Somebody's Waiting For Me, was tons of fun!

Jeff Driggs taught a very informative interactive flatfoot class. This type of dancing makes a wonderful sound, but abandoning the double toe is very difficult! Jeff introduced a easygoing young man Brian Dion. Together, they taught a mutually choreographed routine to Dance With Ya. This past February Brian hosted the first "Cabin Fever Workshop" in Bellville Ohio. It was highly successful and you may want to add it to your bucket list!

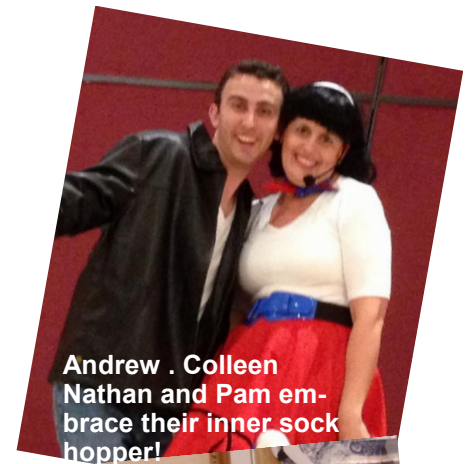
Missy Shinoki had a cool routine to Untamed. It contained an unusual Elephant Step that took a bit of thinking to have the correct foot free. Her hoedown class was comical, as the dancers tried to followed her instructions on formations. This class was full, evidence that many dancers have an interest. Thanks for trying Missy, the class did do a respectable bow!

It was a bonus having smiling Kellee Ramirez on the teaching staff. She always brings some west coast flare with her. Additional flare was present in the form of Kerri Orthner a Canadian instructor. Tina Curtis another Canadian instructor brought some great routines. Bekka Gunner had packed rooms for her advanced teaches. Andrew Perry, had the dancers Juicy Wiggling. As always Colleen Zurbrigg enthusiastically shared her routines. Patty Gunner had the important task of beginners from scratch. Katrina Kaplin and Aliccia Sedorus choose great music and did an excellent job teaching.

Hours of dancing sure increases the appetite. No problem breakfast and lunch buffets are available just outside the dance halls. Saturday evening there is a dinner buffet set up in the same area. The hotel's lounge has an selection of tasty foods. This lounge is spacious and becomes a great place to unwind with dancers at the end of the day. If you choose to dine out there are endless options of restaurants nearby.

Colleen Zurbrigg and Andrew Perry did a grand job hosted the Friday night Sock Hop fun dance. For ninety minutes, fifties music filled the air. Choice of attire that evening...poodle skirts, peepers, leather jackets and saddle shoes. Hairdo's included flat top, jelly roll, and ponytails. Pam Smiley and Colleen Zurbrigg had the most authentic costumes, these ladies thought of every detail, the result...perfection! Not wanting the ladies to out do them, flutter bums, Nathan Ballard and Mike Healy did a outstanding job capturing the fifties look, great threads! The Horseshoe Cloggers from Altoona PA wore ladies pink jackets which had their club insignia printed on the back, these jackets were awesome! It was amazing how many young people dressed, considering they were born after this era. Darolyn Pchajek had a routine to a remix of the Grease soundtrack. Hands down this was the highlight of the evening. She had the dancers split in half and face each other. Andy Howard led half of the group Darolyn the other half. This was ridiculous fun! This routine was so amazing it was actually repeated several times during the weekend. Simultaneously, a second was hall was opened. Bekka Gunner and Aliccia Sedorus, hosts of this request only hall did a fabulous job!

Saturday evening demos were very entertaining. T&T Cloggers, Tracy



Andrew . Colleen
Nathan and Pam embrace their inner sock hopper!



(Continued on page 5)

On the beat.....**Hickory Flat Hoedowners Barn Dance**

Hickory Flat Hoedowners 2nd Annual Down on the Farm Barn Dance Fund Raiser!

Date: Saturday, June 4th

Location: 1177 Old Camp Rd, Denton, NC
ACHF Traditional Workshop: 9AM-4PM Jimmy Loveless and Lou Maiuri will be instructing.

Cost: Members no charge/ Non Members \$20

RSVP for Meal

Please send an approximate number that may be attending from your group. All are invited! Parents, Grandparents, etc. This is open to the public. Please contact Cheryl Skeen: 336-259-4233. You may leave a voicemail or text with your name and number attending.

Barn Dance festivities will begin at 5pm with hamburgers and hotdogs. Barn dance and food are by donation. Drinks will be for sale throughout the evening.

Activities

We will have a cake walk, hayride, flat foot contest, 50/50 drawing, games, and much more! There will be lots and lots of dancing with the best callers there are to offer. If you are not a dancer come out and just enjoy the atmosphere of the music and dancing on the outdoor stage.



Items to Bring...

Yard Chair
Sun Screen
Mosquito spray
Sweater for hayride in evening
Clogging Shoes
and a Smile on your face!

HOTEL INFORMATION IS ON OUR HICKORY FLAT WEBSITE
www.hickoryflathoedowners.com/untitled.html

On the beat.....

Jon Hasler in pictures

Rozewicz's team, danced to Born to Hand Jive. Rock City Cloggers merged a mixture of fifties tunes. Backwoods Thunder Cloggers, Bekka Gunner's advanced team, picked At The Hop. Cold Creek Cloggers chose Come Go With Me. Rhonda's Footstompers had a couple of songs including Chain Gang, and Jail House Rock. Combination Cloggers Morgan Hudson's group from all over performed to Pretty Woman. The girls from 4H Stompem' Cloggers did a great job. All Reel Drive, a trio from Judy's School of Dance, were outstanding. The Just For Fun Cloggers correctly named the team, cause they are all about fun, on and off the dance floor. Herb Brock has no boundaries when it comes to entertaining! The Shane Gang had an elaborate mix of dances capturing the fifties. Joe, queen of the sock hop, brought the house down with his rendition of I Want To Be Bobby's Girl. Amy and her Back up Dancers picked Mama Mia, choreo by Jeff Driggs, as their demo. It is Amy's favorite routine. Jeff joined them on the dance floor. The smile on Amy's face was absolutely priceless! This was a very special demo. For those who did not attend, let me just say Mr. Driggs wearing tight fitting black pants HOT! Following the demos the room was quickly set up for the last fun dance of the weekend. This dance is in the round. The stage for the instructors in the middle of two rooms, dancing takes place all around. The final flurry of energy was spent dancing to old familiar routines, along with a few new. All good things must come to an end but have no fear cause....

NICKEL CITY 2017
APRIL 6 - 8

This workshop runs with the precision of a Swiss Clock!



Big Bopper Shane and the girls



Barb and Herb-etta



Hoola-Hoop contest



Healy family hoppers



Twist contest



Dancers, dancers everywhere!



Backwoods Thunder perform At The Hop



Cueing in the round has it's challenges...where is the 'front'!



On the beat.....

Cloggers in the News!

Reprinted from The Stokes News www.thestokesnews.com



Arts Council provides programming for schools

Cloggers just one of many performances offered during the year

Updated: 12:55 am - April 26th, 2016.

By Nicholas Elmes - nelmes@civitasmedia.com

Students throughout the county added a little swing to their steps last week, thanks to the efforts of the Stokes County Arts Council which brought the Mars Hill University Bailey Mountain Cloggers in to perform at five local schools.

"They are 21 times national champions," said Arts Council Director Eddy McGee. "They travel the world and we were able to bring them up here to present and work with the kids."

The group performed a number of dances for students at King, Mount Olive, and Walnut Cove elementary schools as well as at Piney Grove and Southeastern Stokes middle schools, before teaching a couple of steps to the students, getting them up off their feet and moving.

"It is not just entertainment," said McGee. "We want to encourage active participation."

The cloggers are just one of many arts enrichment programs brought into the county school system by the arts council this year.

"We try to give the schools options at the beginning of the year," said McGee. "Some of the options this year included the Winston-Salem Symphony, the Healing Force, which is an African-American drumming group, the North Carolina Marionette Theater and some UNC School of the Arts programs."

Many of the traveling performing arts programs brought into the county each year also supply supplemental curriculum material.

"They send us those resources ahead of time and we share them with the teachers," said McGee. "It helps them to structure curriculum and coursework around the perfor-

mance. For example, the North Carolina Marionette Theater program was based on Blackbeard so the teachers were getting information on Blackbeard and also about what marionettes were made out of."

"Then we provide in-school support for band, visual, arts, chorus and theater," he added. "At North Stokes for instance the school system dropped theater this year so we picked that up with student led productions like 'May the Farce Be With You' and 'The Gift of the Magi,' and are supporting 'Beatles Dream' at South Stokes."

McGee said the Arts Council also provides support for visual arts instructors at the county middle and high schools and some funding for students at all levels to take field trips to visit exhibits and see performances.

"Whatever the schools can come up with is what we try to help them with," he said. "We spend well over \$10,000 each year and it is completely worth it. Sometimes it also involves a lot of sweat equity, but the kids and faculty end up being inspired."

McGee said the county had a some very talented visual and performing arts instructors, but said the Arts Council felt it was important to supplement those talents with an investment in the county's students.

"These kids are our present and future," said McGee. "These programs encourage the use of creativity and imagination and problem solving skills. It will benefit them for the rest of their lives. This is why we have chosen for the schools to be one of our focus areas. We also try to promote senior arts and programming for special needs children and adults."

That investment is some what unique to Stokes County, said McGee.

"This does not happen in every county," said McGee. "There are rural counties that don't even have an arts council or that do not have resources that work to bring arts into the schools."

Nicholas Elmes may be reached at 336-591-8191 or on Twitter @NicholasElmes.





Upcoming Events

May 27-29, 2016

World of Clogging Workshops
Cincinnati Airport Marriott
Cincinnati, OH
Hanna Healy 716-725-8415
wnyca.pres@gmail.com
worldofclogging@aol.com
worldofclogging.com

May 27-30, 2016

"KickOff Summer" Cloggin' With the Stars
Circle 8 Ranch (Located in picturesque foothills of Mt Rainier)
Cle Elum, Wa
Anne Mills (360) 710-1260
annemills121@comcast.net
CountryCloggers.org

June 3-5, 2016

Northern California Cloggers Association Convention
DoubleTree Hotel
Modesto, CA
ncca-inc.com

June 22-25, 2016

65th National Square Dance Convention
Statehouse Convention Center
Des Moines, IA
<http://www.nsdcnec.com/>

July 15-16, 2016

Double Toe Jam (W,P)
Waco Convention Center
info@doubletoejam.org
doubletoejam.org

August 12-13, 2016

Sunshine State Clogging Jamboree
Daytona Beach, FL
Jeff Wood 850-386-1263
wood@talstar.com
Pyle 812-579-6979
Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net

September 9-10, 2016

37th Annual Clogging & Folk Festival
Mountain View, AR
870-269-3851 ozarkfolkcenter.com

September 9-10, 2016

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

September 23-24, 2016

Fontana Clogging Jamboree
Fontana Village Resort
Fontana Village, NC
Jeff Driggs 304-776-9571
ccajeff@aol.com
Naomi Pyle 812-579-6979
Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net
fontanaworkshop.com

Competitions

May 28, 2016

Mars Hill University Championships (ACHF)
Moore Auditorium
Mars Hill, NC
Danielle B. Plimpton 828-689-1113
dbuice@mhu.edu

May 28-29, 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
gnccclog@gmail.com
gnccclog.webs.com

June 25, 2016

United We Dance (CCA)
Cherokee Cultural Arts Center
Cherokee, NC
Matt & Kelly Sexton (423) 282-5065 & (423)-676-1305
DancExpCloggers@aol.com

June 25, 2016

Shindig in the Valley (ACHF)
Stompin' Ground
Maggie Valley, NC
Stefanie Grubbs 336-918-6269
stefaniegrubbs@gmail.com

June 26, 2016

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

July 29-30, 2016

Southwest US Clogging Championships (NCHC)
DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort
Scottsdale, AZ
Matt & Colleen Pearson 623-670-8271
Azpride2@hotmail.com
www.azpride.com

Check with event coordinators to confirm event details!

Have an event you want listed here?

Send the information to:
CLOGToday@clog.org

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Tony Straughn, NC
Kathleen Frazee, TX
Alexandra Hubbell, CT
Heather Hand, WI
Katie Popiel, AZ

For information on joining CLOG visit our website at ww.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



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

