

C.L.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization



NICKEL CITY CLOGGING FESTIVAL

the greatest festival on earth

By: Barbara Elko Photos by: Pam Smiley

The much anticipated 2018 Nickel City Festival surpassed all expectations. Curiosity over the Circus Theme peaked as boxes, suitcases, and crates of costumes were hauled into the Adams Marks Hotel, located in Buffalo NY. Watching the cloggers unload their cars is a spectacle that no one should miss. It defines... don't leave home without it. Hanna Healy's excessive work ethic, her long list of tireless volunteers, a stupendous line up of instructors ready to share their legendary routines, and the unrestrained, energetic, attending dancers makes this the greatest festival on earth.

This was my eleventh year attending the Nickel City Festival. I would be hard-pressed to pick a favorite year. Nickel City is so special. Each year something different is presented, but at the same time it has all the familiarity of coming home. The volunteers of the WNYCA are amazing! For thirty two years these folks have consistently delivered a magnificent workshop. It takes a tremendous amount of passion, and energy to maintain the high standards of this festival year after year. It is only natural that their enthusiasm passes on to the instructors and dancers.

This year, due to foot fractures, and a clumsy knee high boot I was unable to dance. I would like to share my weekend spent, as an out of commission clogger. First let me say the hotel was very accommodating, they assigned me a room closest to the convention halls and elevators. My roommates and I quickly unpacked and headed to registration. All of the arriving dancers were a bit puzzled to see the area outside of the dance halls reconfigured. Registration, the computers used to make the following years hotel reservations, the shoe and clothing vendors and the dining tables were not in their usual locations. The change was made to make room for the carnival booths, which would be set up Friday evening. Actually, the flow in the hallways move well with this layout.

Thursday night various instructors hosted the fun dance which ran from 7 to 11. A hall packed with zealous dancers is not the place for a semi mobile person so I chose to skip all of the fun dances. Earlier in the year three members of my club and I signed up to be part of the Shane Gang demo Saturday evening. The demo practice was Thursday evening so although my foot injury kept me from attending the fun dance I would be occupied. Sadly I could only observe, this was something I had looked forward to all year ugh! Unable to participate I needed a substitute. Without hesitation a young lady agreed, got suited up in my ridiculous costume, and begin to learn the routine. Thank you Brooke Marie. I survived my first night off the dance floor.

Friday morning my roommates tried to uplift my spirits by bedazzling my boot, I have to admit it looked good. Wearing my decorated boot I headed off to the 8 am Zumba class, which has steadily grown in popularity. In the confines of a boot, you may find my decision a bit strange, but never do my feet and arms communicate. This was a chance for my arms to shine. Wrong, my arm movements were still out of control. I soon discovered an additional problem just because I was stationary does not mean the rest of the folks were. I was creating a traffic jam, it was time for me to move on. Trying to keep my sense of humor I had a t-shirt printed before hobbling to Missy's class. It read Whatchugot Missy the title of song she was using. As a spectator, I quickly lost interest in the routines being shown. Sequestered, I was as lonely as the Maytag Repair Man. I decided to take a leisurely walk around the halls, trust me with a knee high boot on it was truly a snails pace. Outside the noisy dance halls, volunteers continued to work, most noticeable was their hardy laughter. Then I spotted Tracey Rozewicz's triplets and Hanna Healy's son and daughter. They were making good use of open space in the hallways, and having no trouble entertaining themselves. It was obvious they too love Nickel City. I stopped and talked to the vendors, they were super busy so I moved on. Next, I spotted Chris Phelps's son, Lucan, sitting at a table. I met this young boy a little over a year ago at that time he was just putting a



basic step together. I said hey, he replied I just wrote a routine, would you like to see it. Lucan a shy boy, got up danced his routine like nobody was watching. I was touched he shared it with me. Way to go Lucan you made your Daddy proud! Needing to get off my feet I decided to have lunch. This was a new experience sitting down eating and conversing. Normal for me is swallow a candy bar, shouting hi to a dozen cloggers, while rushing to the next class. Several of us shared some personal stuff, talked about club problems and solutions, and upcoming workshops. I think maybe I like lunch. After a two hour lunch I headed to Darolyn Pchajek and Andy Howard's teach of No Excuses, the hot song this year. These two often write and teach routines together. Solidarity best describes their presence on stage. Fortunately they were teaching together because Andy at this point had totally lost his voice. By the end of the workshop his suitcase was filled with cough drops, cold medicines, and home made remedies that folks had provided,

in hopes of helping him. Cloggers are the best! Frustrated, as a nondancer, I headed to my room to elevate the foot that had betrayed me.

Friday night two fun dance halls were running, and eleven carnival booths operating in the hallway. Twenty tickets for the carnival games cost \$1.00, what a bargain! Hanna Healy had a pie throwing booth. Herb Brock and Hanna were the recipients of the tossed pies. I tossed a lot of pies before landing one squarely on Hanna face. Herb really cost me a bunch of tickets, in fact all of my tickets. He cunningly dodge everything I threw at him. I was exhausted from laughing, as were the onlookers. I finally connected, such joy! My club had the booth next to this

(Continued on page 3)

CLOG Today

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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

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Upcoming Sessions

June 8 & 9, 2018
Jonesboro, Arkansas

[Arkansas Certified Clogging Instructor Registration Form](#)



Winner, Winner, Winner!!!

of a

Free Convention Registration or Membership

We held our first "electronic" drawing from the people who entered online at Smokey Mountain Encore held March 8-10.

CLOG would like to congratulate

Brady Devericks

with JAM X-Press from West Virginia

Entrants stopped by the CLOG Booth at Encore and registered to win a Free Convention Registration or Membership. We had iPads to use to enter the contest, or cards that gave the online address to enter. This was the first time that we have tried this method.

We used a random generator via the computer to choose the winner.

On the beat.....

Nickel City con't

(Continued from page 1)

one. It was a toilet paper toss, and let me tell you a very popular booth. The line just kept all wanted a chance at the \$50.00 cash prize. Ironically a person with just one chance won the Operating my own booth, I was not able to play the other games but all of the booths had folks waiting to leave their money at the midway. This was a great idea! To my surprise I survived an entire day off the dance floor.

Saturday, with a more positive mindset I sat in on several teaches. To fill six halls, and eight time slots, each day required a small army of instructors. Among them was the utterly irreplaceable Jeff Driggs and Naomi Pyle. Jeff immediately captivates the dancers with solid routines, and hillbilly humor. Naomi possess her own style of humor that often includes a tale of granny underwear. Sitting in on one of Naomi's beginners classes I witnessed the confidence she easily instills into a new dancer. She sends them away hungry for more.

Cloggers welcomed the opportunity to learn from Dustin Stephan. His life outside of clogging has been jammed pack leaving him less time to instruct at workshops. Dustin is an unique teacher, he wants the dancers to feel the music. Those who took his classes all agreed...he is sensational!

Shane Gruber had one of his students, Matthew Kroll, join him on stage for a teach to the song California. Matthew had asked Shane to write a routine to the song. The request went unanswered so Matt wrote the routine. Lesson here if you are a clogger and like a song try choreographing a routine. Nice job Matthew!

Barry Welch was on hand to stimulate the cloggers. His last visit to Nickel City was 2013, everyone was excited to see him.

Morgan Hudson an veteran instructor, dressed as half man half woman for the circus theme. During one of his teaches he showed another facet of himself, a caring mentor. He had a boy, Austin Reis, join him on stage. Austin is the only male member of Morgan's club, the Southern Pride Cloggers. He wanted the young man to experience the warm of our clogging family, and the excitement of a workshop.

Judy Waymouth once again delighted and exhausted the dancers. Judy will be hosting the first Canadian National Clogging Convention. The dates are October 4th & 5th 2019. Details are available on face book. Contributing to the success of many US workshops has been the large volume of Canadians consistently attending. The Canadian National Clogging Convention is an opportunity for US cloggers to show their appreciation. Truth be told you don't want to miss this party! A passport is necessary.

The line up of instructors was huge, the song selections superb. Thank you all for your efforts in making this a memorable weekend!

Saturday evening the circus had arrived. It was a grand display! Sharon Butzke, Colleen Zurbrigg, Michelle DeVries, and Wayne Atfield, represented the Ontario Rhythm Cloggers. They did an clogging routine to Got Your Number, which mimicked a silent movie. Sergeant Ligtonfeet attempted to capture Clogalong Cassidy and Sundancing Kid. The uniqueness of this was unparalleled! One had to enjoy Kick Up A Fuss. Sporting silly hats and white gloves, these ladies smiled from the start of their routine to the end. The four young ladies from Grand River Cloggers did a great job! The Christian Cloggers surprised everyone with their hidden elephant tails. Quinte Bay and Cold Creek Cloggers joined forces and danced to The Show Must Go On. Roc City and Symphony Cloggers wearing neon costumes were fun to watch. The Backwoods Cloggers use of striped socks and poke a dot tops was very effective. Lehigh Valley Cloggers hit the dance floor with six mature dancers. Then six youngsters took over adding in the use of props. As in years past Amy's Got Talent won over the audience immediately. Amy's enthusiasm while dancing to Hold Your Horses was unmatched! Backwoods Thunder had an stellar performance. These young ladies did not miss a beat, their costumes were colorful, and the use of props interesting. Stompin'em Cloggers were a bit adventurous adding mime to their routine. The Backwoods Teenies routine to Have You Ever Seen An Elephant Fly was a big hit. Half - sation's routine held the crowds interest with fancy footwork, hand motions, and facial expressions. Great job.

For many years, the Nickel City clogging demos have been greatly enhanced by the whimsical imagination of Shane Gruber. This year was no exception. The three ring circus got underway when Shane Gruber, ringmaster, told the crowd to enjoy the Shane Gang Cloggers, along with the Pioneer Cloggers, and the Just For Kick Cloggers as they performed the greatest clogging circus show at Nickel City. Dozens of cloggers, dressed as circus performers converged on the dance floor and formed three rings for the opening dance. Various ways the Dancers represented the circus were a Stilt walker dressed as Uncle Sam, unicyclist, lion tamer, clowns, freaks, ribbon twirler, strong man, fortune teller, and David Cloggerfield. The menagerie of animals included chimps, lions, horses, a trained dog, a mouse, and elephants. The costumes were outstanding. I am not sure who had more fun, the robust performers, or the engrossed onlookers. I can tell you the children in the audience were totally mesmerized. Thank you to Shane Gruber, for having the passion and stamina to attempt such elaborate demos time and time again. You truly are a ringmaster! The circus came to an end and the workshop wound down with a final fun dance. I survived an entire weekend at the Nickel City Clogging Festival off the dance floor. This was not an easy feat, but my clogging family made it bearable, thank you!



growing, young and old,
money.

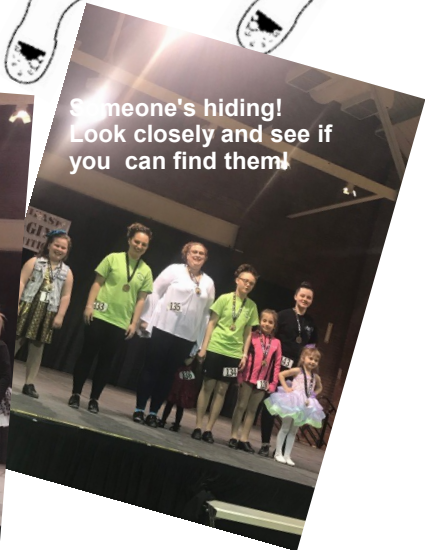
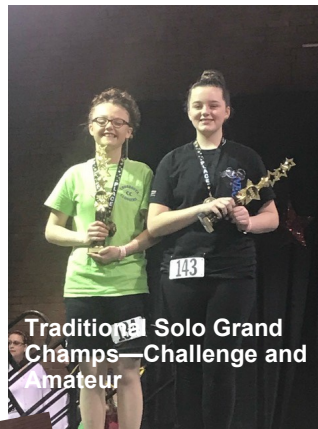
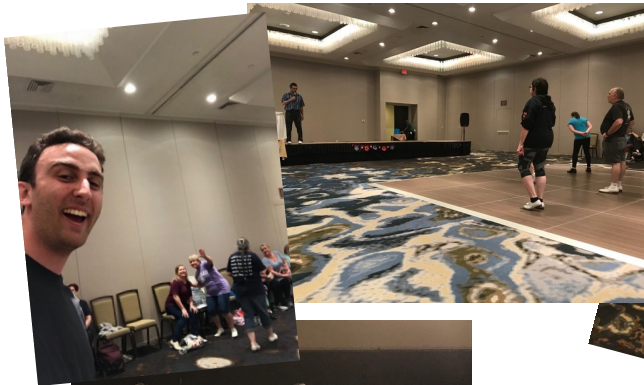


Nickel City Surfin' Safari
April 4 - 6 2019.

On the beat.....

NECC in pictures!

Northeast Clogging Convention/Competition was held April 5-7 in Manchester, MA. The event featured Andrew Perry and Andy Howard sharing some awesome routines with the attendees. They wanted to share some of their views of the week-end.



On the beat.....

More views of Cirque de Nickel City



Smokey Mountain Musings with Blogger Sheila Jo Spencer

Oinky gets a taste of showbiz!

Brush with fame, Clogging shows, Fun dances, Props

Unbeknownst to the audience, the props we use on stage sometimes have a life all their own! As Fancy Free Cloggers made final adjustments to our routine for the Hee Haw show at Smoky Mountain Encore, a stuffed toy pig carried by one of my teammates was deemed too small to be visually effective. Our team seamstress has a pattern and can make one for future shows (we plan on using this dance throughout the year), but she didn't have time to create a custom pig before the trip to Tennessee.

Enter Oinky, my project for the pinata category in the Lick Middle School Arts Festival, circa 30 years ago. My seventh-grade self commandeered the kitchen table for many a night, cutting strips of newspaper and tissue paper to create her.

Though she never won top honors, my dad took a liking to Oinky. When the Arts Festival ended, he found her a home in his office, nestled among old bowling trophies and gas station sparkle awards. The school has been torn down and a new elementary school stands in its place, but Oinky still sports a bow from the '80s and a tag identifying her as an entry from Miss Zucker's Spanish class.

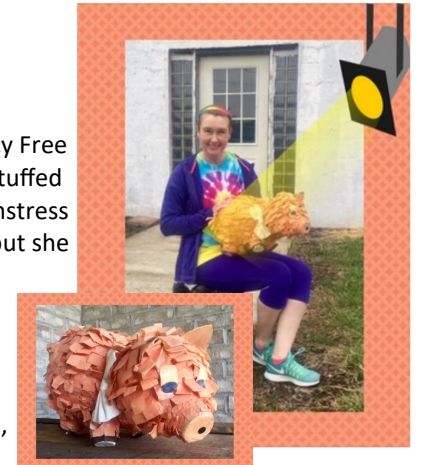
Despite being somewhat faded and dusty (*and missing a nostril*), Oinky was ready for another chance to be a star! She attended practice at Fancy Free Studio and visited the "beauty shop" for glue stick touch-ups. Alas, nothing is certain in showbiz!

A teammate's husband underwent emergency surgery the day of the Encore show. (*Happy to report he's home now and recovering well.*) Donetta, who was supposed to carry Oinky in the show, had to instead take over a special role in place of our missing dancer. Oinky was cut from the routine! Donetta's son broke the news to her gently...

Oinky was a good sport about it all. We took her backstage for the show, and Donetta still carried her for the group photo of our "Old Rattler" number.

The fun didn't stop there; Fancy Free Cloggers took Oinky to the fun dance on Saturday night!

Oinky even got a moment of glory when she helped me take third prize in the Hee Haw costume contest! (*Thank you to Naomi and the other person who donated prize money! You bought me the Sunday lunch special at the Kentucky Artisan Center on my drive home. Much appreciated.*)

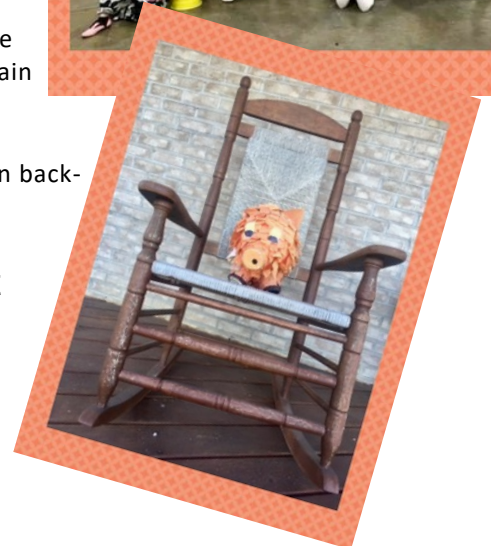


There IS the possibility for Oinky to get one more shot in "Old Rattler" - we may be performing the routine in a variety show next weekend. For now, she's taking time to relax from the excitement of Smoky Mountain Encore.

She'll have plenty of stories to tell those old bowling trophies when she once again retires to Dad's office!

Has YOUR team used any props with fun backstories?

****Follow Sheila Jo's next adventure at sheilajospencer.com****





Upcoming Events

July 20-21, 2018

Double Toe Jam
Waco Convention Center
Waco, TX
info@doubletoejam.org
doubletoejam.org

August 17-18 2018

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

September 21-23, 2018

23rd Australian Clogging Association
National Clogging Convention
Melbourne, Victoria Australia
Neville Flegg 0418 306 321
nevflegg@bigpond.com
cloggingaustralia.com

September 21-22, 2018

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

October 19-21, 2018

Salt City Workshop
Holiday Inn
Liverpool, NY
Hanna Healy
wnyca.pres@gmail.com
www.wnyca.com/saltcity

November 3, 2018

Appalachian Stomp
Hillsboro, VA
info@brtc.us
AppalachianStomp.com

October 20, 2018

OktoberCLOGfest
Lights Dance Barn
Scottsburg, IN
Naomi Pyle 812-579-6979
Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net

November 21-24, 2018

35th Annual C.L.O.G. National Clogging
Convention
Atlanta Marriott
Atlanta, GA
David & Susan Phillips 678-889-4355
clog@clog.org
clog.org

Competitions

June 15-16, 2018

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

June 23, 2018

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

June 23, 2018

Cherokee Clogging Challenge(CCA)
Cherokee Central School
Cherokee, NC
Ccaclog.com

July 7, 2018

Let the Sparks Fly Competition (NCHC)
Cabool, MO
Rebecca Peterson (417) 254-3168
matbec@centurytel.net

July 28, 2018

Mississippi Clogging Extravaganza
(NCHC)
Brookhaven Rec Center
Brookhaven, MS
Angie Miller 601.906.2882
angiehaemiller@gmail.com
www.mscllogextravaganza.com

August 4, 2018

Summerfest Clogging Championships
(ACHF)
Easley High School
Easley, SC
Registration Information:
Dianne Loftin – 864-277-0553 –
dloftin01@gmail.com

August 4, 2018

Battle in B-Town (CCA)
Bloomington, IN
indianadancecompany@gmail.com
Ccaclog.com

August 18, 2018

Wilson County Fair (NCHC)
Lebanon, TN
Grace Pack gpack33@aol.com

September 1-2, 2018

USA National Championships (NCHC)
Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Nashville, TN
Registration Information:
ALANIER821@AOL.COM
Opryland Hotel Reservations
ON-LINE Reservations

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Angela Lippy, VA
Glee Johnson, Or
Moya McKeenan, OR
Suzie Blakenship, TX
Cindy Jaworski - WV
Patty Homer, WA

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

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www.clog.org

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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*

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Dacula, GA USA 30019

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November 23-25, 2017
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Schedule

Wednesday-Thursday	Certified Clogging Instructor Seminar
Wednesday 1:00-4:00	Workshops- Up and Rising Instructors
Wednesday - Saturday	Nightly Fun Dances
Thursday	Dance Expose
Thursday 9AM-3PM	Workshops- p and Rising Instructors
Thursday Late Afternoon	Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday Evening	Parade of Colors
Friday -Saturday	Workshops- National Instructors
9am - 5pm	Over 75 hours of Workshops & Seminars

Friday Evening - Excursion - TBA

Friday Evening - Enjoy the Fun Dance

Saturday 7 PM Showcase and Fun Dance

*****Schedule Subject to change*****

ALL ACTIVITIES UNDER ONE ROOF!



Hotel Info:

Atlanta Marriott Marquis

265 Peachtree Center Ave. • Atlanta, GA 30303

[Hotel onLine Reservation](#)

GROUP ROOM RATES

Rate: \$111 1-4 ppl per room + tax

Self Parking \$1.00

20 min From The Airport

Guaranteed Rate until 10/24/2018

Rooms will Sell Out—Reserve Yours Today!!

Register Online at www.clog.org/convention

INFO: 678-889-4355 convention@clog.org