

C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization

Many crews had heard tales of the riches found at the Nickel City Clogging Festival. The myth tells of 27 years of bounties gathered there. With maps, compasses, (GPS just in case) we set course towards the coastline of Lake Erie. It cost several gold coins to pass through the toll gates, a cheap price to pay for the adventure that awaited. We dropped anchor at the Adam Marks Hotel home of the legendary Nickel City Festival. A menagerie of boisterous pirates disguised as cloggers were setting up camp. Unloading ample supplies and their sturdy clog shoes these pirates were prepared to start the weekend battle. Which room...which leader...held the treasures they were seeking?



An exploratory mission, know as a fun dance, began Thursday evening. The buccaneers gather syllabuses, from the volunteer quartermasters, and began investigating room locations and size. From their crows nest, Captains Perry, Gruber, Hudson, Orthner, Pyle, Shinoski, and Bilz, led the sailors though a familiar course of dances such as All Shook Up, Little Red Riding Hood, Rocky Top, Bit By Bit, Mama Mia, and High Horse. Over three hours were spent looping, twisting, stomping, exchanging greetings, and planning strategies for the following day. At the close of the fun dance a challenge was issued...ZUMBA CLASS 8 a.m.

Several merchants hauling precious cargo came ashore at Buffalo. Rumors had spread that it was a great location to trade wares for gold coins. Sweats, t-shirts, shorts, bags, jewelry and shoes would this be enough to lure some loot from the high spirited pirates? Absolutely, the seafarers needed to replenish their supplies. We thank all those merchants who kindly let us ransack their goods looking for the perfect item.

The strategically positioned, galleys on site tried to satisfy the vicious hunger of the crowd. More rations could easily be found outside the hotel. A staple food for a seafaring pirate is fish, so for many buccaneers the hot buffalo wings were a culinary delight.

Friday and Saturday morning, Zumba classes were skillfully navigated by Kerri Orther and Darolyn Pchajek. Ignoring the fact that the sun just rose above the horizon, the hardiest of mates dressed and attended these early offerings. These classes were an invigorating way to prepare the body and soul for the long quest ahead.

As a tribute to the late Charlie Burns the Wright Room was used to teach several of his routines. This gave the instructors, and those who knew him, a moment to recall their friend. For those who did not know him, it became apparent what an impact this man had on clog dancing and those whose lives he touched. This mate was on board for Tricia Profic's presentation of Lay Down Sally, also Fonda Hill and Trevor DeWitt teaches of Comin' Round The Mountain, and If You've Got The Money I've Got the Time. With enthusiasm, tears, and laughter the instructors and dancers shared Charlie's routines.



Instructors remember Charlie Burns

The treasure chest was filled with a wide variety of country routines. Many sailed on a Booze Cruise with Judy Waymouth or Scotty Bilz. Some landlubbers choose to Kick A Little Dirt with Jeff Driggs, or All Over The Road with Kerri Orthner. Barbara Henderson, Jason Pflugh, Dustin Stephan, or Judy Waymouth, it was mayhem picking who to dance Friday Night with. They each had different routines they wanted to share. The only way to conquer this problem... split forces, and take them all! Missy Shinoski, Morgan Hudson, and Chip Summey had

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.

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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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CERTIFIED CLOGGING INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Mission Statement

The Certified Clogging Instructor Program (CCI), begun in 1994 as a program of CLOG, was instituted to help increase the quality of clogging instruction for all levels of dancers nationwide. CCI provides a comprehensive educational program and a framework of solid instruction techniques, team management skills and choreography basics supported by an in depth history of the dance itself, for instructors wishing to become more informed, effective, confident, and professional members of the clog dance community. In addition, the program is designed to offer a wealth of information for those simply interested in becoming more knowledgeable of clogging as a dance form.

The CCI team recognizes the need for enlightened and professional instructors not only for young adult and competition teams on the cutting edge of modern clogging, but also for beginners, seniors, and recreational dancers as well.

This program is not intended to be an indicator of the most skillful dancers in our art form today, nor is it necessarily a vehicle to becoming a widely recognized workshop instructor. It is a professional designation for instructors who have spent many hours dedicating themselves to becoming the best leaders possible by learning from some of the most competent, qualified, and successful instructors in the clogging world today.

It is the goal of CCI to provide an educational program for individuals interested in clogging as a dance form and to serve as an asset to all dance instructors teaching all types of dancers.

Clog offers a variety of educational 'tracks' within the CCI program:

- ◆ [Certificate of Education](#)
- ◆ [CCI Designation](#)
- ◆ ["Fast Track" Certification program](#)
- ◆ [International Certification](#)



Music Licenses for 2014



For those who need this service, the rates for 2014 have been released .

CLOG offers Music license to our members at reduced rates. If you perform in public, you are required to have music licensing. Find out more at: <http://www.clog.org/membership/BMI-ASCAP.html>

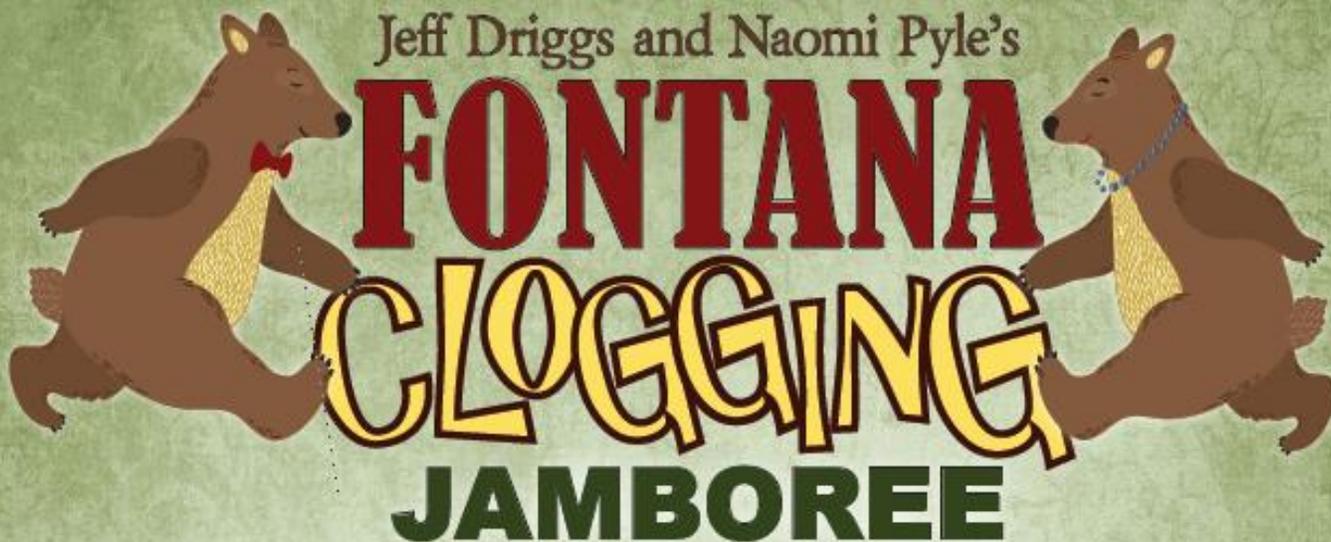
You can order or renew on-line at:
<http://clogweb.powweb.com/store/page7.html>

If you have questions, contact us at CLOG@clog.org



Jeff Driggs and Naomi Pyle's

FONTANA CLOGGING JAMBOREE



September 19 & 20, 2014

at Fontana Village Resort, North Carolina Smoky Mountains
make plans to join us for our 12th big year!



**featuring your hosts Naomi Pyle (IN) and Jeff Driggs (WV)
Scotty Bilz (GA), Chip Summey (NC) and Barry Welch (CA)**

plus traditional and swing classes with C.J. Tate (AR) and more TBA!

Live Bluegrass Music Both Nights, Workshops, Fun Dances, Exhibitions, Seminars

Experience a weekend like no other in the clogging world!



Great National Instructors, the world's most famous oak clogging dance floor, live bluegrass music and much more! Nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains, Fontana Village has a rich history in square dancing and clogging. Steps like the "Rockin' Chair" were invented at this very place. Come and experience the magic of this place for yourself! There is just an atmosphere and an energy about this place and this weekend that is hard to describe.

For info, contact Naomi Pyle (812) 579-6979 naomi_p@sbcglobal.net
Jeff Driggs (304) 776-9571 ccajeff@aol.com

www.fontanaworkshop.com

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different ideas on That's My Kind Of Night. The sheer torture of choosing indescribable. It was a brutal battle of routines.

So many mates were talking about Happy it was imperative to find the quarters of Darolyn Pchajek, to confiscate Tequila. For those not familiar with Darolyn she is a fabulous instructor from Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada. She shares cue sheets and videos on her web site dare to clog. With ease she warmly delivered her routines as her feet viciously pounded the floor. Speaking of feet this woman has a huge assortment of clog shoes and boots, in a rainbow of colors, and styles. Maybe the Genius Book of Records should be called upon. She was a great addition to the workshop and we hope she sets sails to the Nickel City Festival again!



Sometimes treasure is hidden, many of us discovered a jewel named Captain Herb Brock. His teach of Irish Polka was absolutely perfect! Those attending had 45 minutes of laughter, while learning a great routine that presented many options. His first mates Elaine Brock and Jessie Owens were given strict orders to follow, or they would find themselves walking the plank. Fearlessly, Jessie revolted until Herb agreed to increase the gold promised to her. This class truly reflected the clogging spirit!

Buccaneer, Kellee Ramirez from the far away coast of California landed at the festival. Kellee and her cargo were granted permission to come aboard. Her teaches of Best Day Of My Life, Shake, Tie It Up, Walk This Way, MMM Yeah, and Chocolate, brought a bit of west coast flare to the shores of Lake Erie.

Without the use of a musket, sword, or cannon Jeff Driggs was able to gather the mates for a Bluegrass mixer to Jump Back Jo Jo. His patience, and gentle guidance, prevented the columns from capsizing. Thanks to his watchful eye, no sailors were marooned outside the circle. At the end, the mates were hooked on mixers.



Horseshoe Cloggers — Altoona, PA

Contained in Naomi Pyle's treasure chest is a fortune of routines. Too much loot to carry away at one time. Our crew decided to confiscate I'm A Freak. In order to hijack this routine it was crucial that the rudders on each vessel move freely in all directions. It was up to the skilled Naomi Pyle to get the entire fleet moving in the same direction at the same time. Without her leadership there may have been a mass mutiny!

The experienced cutthroat pirates wanted Scotty Bilz's Timber. Jeff's Day Of Gold peaked their curiosity. Seasoned pirates were seen Counting Stars with Missy Shinoski. Young, masterful, Andrew Perry recognized their need for a Popular Song. Using his most effective weapons... a smooth southern drawl, hearty smile, and talented toes, Chip Summey led the mates through Hot Mess.

Shane Gruber greeted those discovering the New World of clog dance with Cajun Song. Dustin Stephan asked newcomers to try a little Fashion. Kim White's duty was beginners from scratch. To her credit, all the newbies left with Compass in hand.

It was impossible to participate in all the classes. Ear to ear grins were tell tale signs that the greedy buccaneers were elated with their finds. Thanks to all the instructors, for the great routines you provided, and all the lasting memories you created.



Pirates and Castaways unite!

Twelve groups participated in Saturdays exhibitions. Morgan Hudson's unique group from all over, the Combination Cloggers, danced a lively, foot stomping hoedown. The TNT Cloggers routine contained many elaborate formations. The 4-H Stompin' Em young ladies took flight with Wings Are Made to Fly. As always Amy's Got Talent owned the crowd. Amy absolutely nailed her routine to Roar. Hats off to Kickin' Rhythm Cloggers. Their performance was priceless, as was their stylishly dressed fairy! This group actually unleashed a full size alligator, way to entertain! The tres amigos Kyle Waymouth, Dustin Stephan, and Joel Harrison wowed the audience with their dazzling performance. The Pioneer Cloggers safely landed on a deserted island, only to be captured by the Shanegang Cloggers. Once again the Shanegang's artistic performance was spellbinding. Helen portraying the Dim Wit Pirate/Witch Doctor was awesome!



Gilligan meets Captain Jack

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The audience was stunned when she bamboozled the treasure chest from the pirates. Lakeside Country Cloggers, Backwoods Thunder, Kick Up a Fuss Cloggers, Tensation Cloggers, and Backwoods Thunder all had outstanding unique routines!

This was a sensational workshop! One could roam the high seas in search of others, but none will match the treasured Nickel City Festival. Crews of efficient WNYCA volunteers labored endless hours putting this event together. The staff faced some major problems this year, but with the speed of a hurricane wind the problems were addressed and resolved. WNYCA has one goal...provide a place for dancers to gather and have a weekend of unlimited fun. Congratulations you did it!

X marks the spot
2015
NICKEL CITY FESTIVAL

Sun	Mon	Tue	April Wed 1	Thu 2	Fri 3	Sat 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



On the beat..... News from around the clogging world

Hi!

I'm very happy to announce that Susan Woods of Moyie, British Columbia has taken over the Great Canadian Clogging Company. She will operate as the Rocky Mountain Clogging Supply and will continue to supply shoes, taps and various items, across Canada. She is very excited to be taking over the business. I hope you will support her by encouraging your cloggers to order from her. Her doors will be opening May 1, 2014. You can reach her at 250-417-7080 or rmclogsupply@gmail.com

Thank you very much for all of the business you have directed my way over the last 14 years. It was a lot of fun and I have gotten to know so many wonderful people all across Canada both in person and on the phone. I will still be teaching clogging so you'll still see me on the dance floor.

Happy Clogging.
Birgit Blizzard
Great Canadian Clogging Company

Celebrating Lives...

News from around the clogging world

A Clogging Legend: Violet Marsh January 10, 1932—April 28, 2014

The clogging world lost another true legend this year. Below are excerpts from the eulogy given by Sheila Popwell (original Editor of the CLOG Today, formerly the Flop-eared Mule) celebrating the life of Vi Marsh.

"We're here to celebrate a life that lasted 82 years and to share a few facets of that life you might never have heard from Violet herself.

If you knew her as a friend, you wouldn't believe she was that same sophisticated, well-dressed woman her co-workers knew. You'd usually find her outside, either muddy or dusty, but happily grubby. She had worked in the cotton fields in Mississippi as a child, and she never outgrew her love and care for all the things that God created and made grow. She loved doing yard work, and she loved hiking through the mountains, studying trees, wildflowers, and all manner of plants.

Violet also loved many types of dancing. When she lived in north Atlanta in the late 60's, she danced with an Irish dance group. She learned to square dance and fell in love with an old traditional Appalachian dance form called clogging. To share the fun with other would-be dancers, she became a clogging instructor and taught fun-level classes as well as coordinating exhibition dance teams.

When her job took her from Atlanta to California and later to Texas, she introduced clogging there. One of her teams traveled to Alaska for a dance tour, and she took another team on a tour of Poland, performing all over that country through the Ambassadors of Friendship program. While in Texas she formed an exhibition group called the Countrywide Cloggers whose members all lived in different states -- when that group got together for their infrequent rehearsals and performances, they were held to the mark not only by Violet's love of dance but also by the same "get it right, and get it right now" standards she applied when the customer was an audience. Many of the dance teams she started back then are still together today. While preparing for retirement, she took on the task of building a house in Stockbridge, Georgia, while still living in Houston, Texas. That, she always said, was a job which was nearly as complicated as running a multi-state clogging team.

At the beginning of her retirement, 19 years ago, she moved back to Georgia to finally be near her family again. She transformed the muddy hillside behind her house into a showplace of a back yard mainly by hauling very big rocks in the trunk of her car, one load at a time. She was a lifelong lover of the beauties of nature, and was truly saddened every time she saw another group of trees being cut down along the roadsides. To her the world was always a little uglier without those trees. After her physical activities were limited, she passed a lot of her recovery time by doing needlework and crochet. She made literally hundreds of scarves, giving them not only to family and friends but also donating boxes full to local nursing homes and to a church group that provides food and warm clothes to the homeless in Atlanta.

Just a little over a month ago, Violet learned that her cancer had recurred. As her body weakened, there were two things she said she wished she could do -- eat another stack of those great onion rings at Cheddars and cut her grass again. Violet could have been the inspiration for Pike Nursery's "Play in the Dirt Again" ad campaign. But she didn't just enjoy having her hands in the dirt, she was herself a down-to-earth person. She was kind with her words, but she didn't sugar coat her messages. She would just tell you the truth.

Violet is survived by her daughter Ann and Ann's husband David Fields, by her granddaughter Jamie Pelz, who was the delight of her heart and the twinkle in her eye; by her sisters Gretchen Pugh and Betty Culver, and by Betty's husband Robert Culver.

Our truth is that there are no words for how much we will miss her -- except to say those onion rings will never taste quite the same again."



Bill Ballew.—Bucking Butoneer Cloggers, Georgia Sunshine, Dekalb College Cloggers

BALLEW, William Aden William Aden "Bill" Ballew, age 89, of Lilburn, GA died Friday, May 23, 2014. Born in Greenville, SC, he was the son of Emma (Whitson) and Turner Pinkney Bellew. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Frances and four daughters, Sandra Ballew of Lawrenceville, Barbara and James A. Lee Jr., of Decatur, Jeanie and Nolan D. Vickers of Stone Mountain, and Virginia "Ginger" Ballew of Greensboro, GA. His five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren knew him as "Pa Bill." A [WWII Army](#) veteran, Bill proudly served with Merrill's Marauders in China, Burma and India. He was the former owner of National Awning Co. in Atlanta and Monroe, GA. Bill taught dance at DeKalb and Kennesaw College, including clogging and ballroom and won several awards at Stone Mountain Yellow Daisy festival. Bill was an avid golfer and achieved a hole-in-one. He was involved in family ancestry and one of the founders of the Ballew Family Association.





Upcoming Events

August 15-16, 2014

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

August 15-16, 2014

Mississippi Clogging Extravaganza
Brookhaven, MS
msclogextravaganza.com

August 16, 2014

Stompin' in the Black Hills
Belle Fourche, South Dakota
Jackie (307) 283-2925
Jeri (605) 391-5374

August 29-31, 2014

28th Annual Kick Off
Tacoma, WA
Anne Mills (380) 710-1260
Annemills121@comcast.net

September 5-6, 2014

Florida Clogging Council State Convention
Eau Gallie Civic Center
Melbourne, FL
Floridacloggingcouncil.org

September 5-6, 2014

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

September 12-14, 2014

New Zealand Clogging Convention
Brightwater Public Hall
Nelson, New Zealand
nzclogging.webs.com

September 19-20, 2014

Fontana Clogging Jamboree
Fontana Village Resort
Fontana, NC
Jeff Driggs ccajeff@aol.com
Naomi Pyle naomi_p@sbcglobal.net
Fontanaworkshop.com

September 26-27, 2014

Northwest Clogging Annual Workshop
Hazel Dell Grange
Vancouver, WA
Barb Guenette
bguenette@shaw.ca
Alberta Stamp
astamp@olympen.com
nwcloggers.com

November 7-9, 2014

Sea Lion Stomp
Nanoose Hall
Nanoose, BC
Barb Guenette
bguenette@shaw.ca
nwcloggers.com

November 14-16, 2014

Hickory Hoedown
Hickory Metro Conv. Ctr.
AJ & Jill Kirby (828) 396-2052
simscountrycloggers@yahoo.com
clognc.com

November 26-29, 2014

28th Annual C.L.O.G. National Clogging Convention
Peppermill Resort Spa Casino
Reno, NV
David & Susan Phillips
(678) 889-4355
clog@clog.org
clog.org

Competitions

August 16, 2014

CCA Bluegrass State (CCA)
Morehead, KY
Scott & Dena Dobson (812) 325-1794
sdobson@bluemarble.net

August 16, 2014

Wilson County Fair (NCHC)
Lebanon, TN
Grace Pack (615) 449-3821
gpack33@aol.com

August 23, 2014

Sound FX Clogging Championships (ACHF)
James W. Warren Citizens Center
Lincolnton, NC
Dianne Loftin (864) 277-0553
dloftin01@gmail.com
Quinn Stansell (704) 418-8047
qstansell@carolina.rr.com

September TBA, 2014

First Coast Classic (NCHC)
Jacksonville, FL
Anne Lanier (904) 705-8766
alanier821@aol.com

September 5-6, 2014

North Carolina Mountain State Fair Clogging Competition (ACHF)
WNC Ag Center
Fletcher, NC
Dianne Loftin (864) 277-0553
dloftin01@gmail.com

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

September 27, 2014

The Challenge (CCA)
Charlotte, NC
Chip & Misty Harrison (704) 685-3268
tncelite@gmail.com

October 18, 2014

Deep South Dance Off (CCA)
Georgia
Heather Kohberger (678) 245-2725
h.kohberger@gmail.com
Blake Dunn (417) 598-2199

Check with event coordinators to confirm event details!

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Phyllis McGrath, CA
Cindy Smith, CA
Jill Anne Clark, WA
Heather Vaughan, CA
Cheryl Salzmann, CA
Terry Bo Stewart, OH
Lisa M Thompson, WI
Cathy Smihula, UT

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 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



31st Annual CLOG
National Convention
~ Reno, NV ~

November 27-29, 2014
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

**NATIONAL
CLOGGING
CONVENTION**



Hotel Info:

Hotel Information:

Peppermill Resort Spa Casino
2707 S Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502

Reservation Number:

1-866-821-9996 - Code: aclog2014

Register online - <http://tinyurl.com/clog2014>

GROUP ROOM RATES

Tuscany Towers Rate: \$79 (1-4 ppl)

Peppermill Tower Rate: \$99 (1-4 ppl)

Guaranteed Rate until 10/25/2014

Rooms will Sell Out—Reserve Yours Today!!

Register Online at www.clog.org/convention

INFO: www.Clog.org

678-889-4355

convention@clog.org