

C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization

2015 West Virginia Dance Convention

By: Barbara Elko

This convention takes place at Wesleyan College, which is located in Buckhannon, West Virginia. It is a weekend that offers both Square Dancing and Clogging. Buckhannon is a quaint town, with plenty of hotels and restaurants. A very affordable option is staying in the college dorm, meals are also available in the college cafeteria.

Five years ago, Donnie May, a clogger with 26 years experience, took over as Clogging Chairman. With new leadership comes new methods and ideas. The past five years Donnie has slowly made changes. He has retained some of the previous instructors and added new ones. He has worked closely with the square dance board to insure the cloggers have a voice. He often takes a vote before making a decision. This year he asked for volunteers to help fill some voids in the public relations area. He has appointed a new secretary. Changes take time, and it takes even longer to reap the rewards from those changes. Each year the numbers of cloggers has slowly increased. This workshop is emerging from it's infancy.



Erica Haning and Donnie May

An unique thing about this workshop the instructors are all from local clubs. The instructors are asked to bring their own choreography. This years instructors Mark Wilson, William Watkins, Candy Topp, Connie Price, Donnie May, Michael Midkiff, and Barb Elko will be returning next year. Abby Chapman and Elyse Hatfield and Erica Haning will also be added to the list of instructors for next year.

Saturday morning Connie Price opened the workshop with a modified version of Missy Shinoski's Honey I'm Good. Everyone loves this song! Next up Candy Topp attempted to get the dancers swinging with a routine to Centerfield.

Besides his own teach, Michael Midkiff was asked to fill in two spots left open by instructors who were unable come. He taught a couples dance to Bop, a line dance to Thunderstruck, and a routine to the holiday song Sleigh Ride. All three were crowd pleasers. He received an appreciation award for his efforts.

Barb Elko had a young member of her club Natalie Trainer co-teach a routine they wrote together to Sweet Georgia Peaches. It was Natalie's first time teaching and she did a fabulous job.



The Watkins Family

William Watkins, son of Clarence Watkins (former clogging chairman), had a high intermediate routine to Too Much. William focused on making the dancers more aware of body motions, and ways to enhance common steps. Hats off to Will who returned to clogging in spite of a severe leg injury.

Along with a basic routine to I Gotta Know, Mark Wilson shared his knowledge of Waltz Clogging. This concept is very different for a clogger, and a bit challenging.

Donnie May used his teaching slot to get the dancers ready for the evening's demo. Teaching and learning three routines in a short amount of time is tough.

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CLOG Today

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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

A Message from Baltimore



Baltimore is a city with a rich, diverse history and culture, unique neighborhoods and the kinds of amenities that offer visitors an authentic experience. Like many other cities, it is also facing challenges, but the City is coming together to address those challenges under a Mayoral initiative known as One Baltimore. As part of One Baltimore the hospitality industry along with other business, civic, and faith based leaders are collaborating as a community to be part of the solution. All of the tourism venues – from the convention center and hotels to the attractions, bars, retail shops and restaurants are ready to welcome you to Baltimore, over **Thanksgiving week, November 23-28, 2015**. The proud Baltimore residents who staff these venues are eager to share them with you. **Visit Baltimore** and the entire community remain committed to providing an outstanding customer and attendee experience.

- **Comeback Cities [more...](#)
- **Baltimore - Open for Business [more...](#)
- **Raising a Flag the Size of a Yacht - From Somebody's Gotta Do It [more...](#)
- **Baltimore One of the 7 Most Underrated American Food Cities [more...](#)

Five Reasons To Go To Baltimore

1. Easy To Get There—It is in the crossroads of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Located off I-95, serviced by Amtrak, 15 minutes from the airport.
2. The Famed Inner Harbor—the Inner Harbor is surrounded by renowned attractions, a variety of restaurants, and unique shopping.
3. Easy To Get Around—Museums and attractions are easily accessible via the fast and free Charm City Circulator hybrid buses or the Baltimore Water taxi.
4. Beautiful Weather—The average high is 56 degrees and the low is 37 degrees.
5. Location—Just 45 minutes from Washington D.C. and right at the Chesapeake Bay area.

[Download Registration Form](#) (PDF)
[Download Registration Form](#) (Excel)
[On Line Convention Registration](#)

Come Visit Baltimore!
National CLOG Convention 2015
November 26-28, 2015

On the beat.....

More from West Virginia Dance Convention

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As I mention earlier in the article, this is a combination square dance clogging workshop. Saturday evening there is a Grand March where all the clubs line up alphabetically and are introduced. Then the cloggers demo for the square dancers. After the demo the cloggers are invited to watch the square dancers skillfully follow cues.

The highlight of this event is the after party which begins at 10:30 each night and runs till whenever. The square dancers and cloggers gather in a large room and the fun begins. It is a very interactive party with dancing and games. This year five volunteers were giving brown paper bags with unknown contents. One at a time the volunteers were led outside the room and told to open their bag. Inside the bags were various costumes of famous people. The volunteers dress in the costume and then were introduced as their character. They then had to lip sync their famous persons song for the crowd. The laughter was unbelievable. Vanilla Ice, Michael Jackson, Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels, and Dolly Parton as never seen before performed. Tons of fun!

We would like to thank the WV Federation Officers and all the Chairpersons for a wonderful weekend. A special thanks to Vickie Lowther(general chairperson) and Etta McCormick(entertainment) who never seems to run out of energy or ideas. The cloggers really appreciate all Donnie May's efforts moving this workshop forward.

2016 Convention August 5th and 6th

General Information - www.wvsquaredance.org/convention
Clogging Information - donniem1975@att.net or (740) 444-2119



Choreography Corner.....

Make You Mine

CHOREO: Shirley Brown CCI
 Email: smbrown39@rogers.com
 Tel: 416-762-3131 705-790-6714 Cell

INTERMEDIATE/Country

Artist: High Valley
 feat: Ricky Skaggs
 CD: Country Line (itunes)
 Time: 3:31 Track 2

=====

WAIT 16 BEATS

PART A

MICHAEL

DS DSxib ROCK/HL pivot ½ left ST RS DS DS BA/SL

L R L R L RL R L R R

FLARE

DS DTxif HI DT *flare out* HL RS DT *flare out* HL RS DSRS

L R L R L RL R L RL R LR

Repeat above steps to face front

=====

REPEAT PART A

CHORUS i

FLIP VINE

DS DSxif DS *flip ½ right* ST RS DS DSRS

L R L R LR L R LR

2 FANCY TRIPLES

DS DS DSRS DS DS DSRS

L R L RL R LR R RL

Repeat flip vine and fancy triples to front

1 TRIPLE

DS DS DSRS

L R L RL

BASKETBALL

SToif ST ½ left SToif ST ½ right

R L R L

1 TRIPLE

DS DS DSRS

R L R LR



BREAK

1 COWBOY

DS DS DS BR/up DS RS RS RS

L R L R LR LR LR

=====

REPEAT PART A CHORUS i

PART C

3 COWBOYS

DS DS DS BR/up DS RS RS RS *turning ½ left on 1st & 2nd 3rd no turn*

L R L R R LR LR LR

CHORUS ii

4 STOMPS

**Note...do Flip Vine/Fancy triples x 2 only(omitting Basketball and last triple) ...then add on*

STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP

L R L R

CHORUS iii

**Note... Do all of Chorus up to Basketball only....omit triple and add on*

STOMP CLAP (watch timing here)

R

=====

REPEAT PART A **On last basic bring hands to heart and hold *music slows down here*

....count 6 beats/tap heel when music starts

ENDING

4 COWBOYS

DS DS DS BR/up DS RS RS RS (*turn ¾ right on ea. chain*)

L R L R R LR LR LR

2 FANCY TRIPLES

DS DS DSRS DS DS DSRS

L R L RL R L R LR

1 COWBOY

DS DS DS BR/up DS RS RS RS *turn 360' right*

L R L R R LR LR LR

DBL. BASIC

DS DSRS

L R LR



=====

SEQUENCE: A A CHORUS 1 BREAK A CHORUS 1 C CHORUS 2 CHORUS 3A ENDING

On the beat.....**Reprinted from the Citizen-Times, Asheville****WNC youth clogging teams keep traditions lively**

Carol Rifkin, Asheville Citizen-Times correspondent 11:31 a.m. EDT July 13, 2015



It's about having fun while you dance. That's what young cloggers say about dancing on a traditional clogging team. This year's crop of dancers is the strongest in many years, keeping mountain traditions alive and ensuring it will be there for the next generation.

"I really like the cow's tail, a step where you just bend your knee and throw your foot in a circle while the other leg stays straight," said Tommy Miller, a nine-year veteran of the Cole Mountain Cloggers.

Photo: David Plunkett/Special to the Citizen-Times)

Now 15 and a sophomore at West Henderson High School, Tommy's been dancing since kindergarten, when parents Mike and Kathy Miller took him to see the Cole Mountain Cloggers perform at Shindig on the Green.

Grandparents Judy and E.J. Miller have both served on Asheville's Folk Heritage Committee, charged with the task of defining, presenting and preserving regional traditions on summer Saturday nights downtown at Shindig on the Green and the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival every August.

"If it's a big thing, like going for a title, it can be nerve-racking, a bit scary. But if you are going out to have fun, you just do," Tommy said. "It's like a family, you grow up with everyone, go through hard times and good times and you stay a team. I love it."

He says it's not the awards and ribbons that are the big draw, it's the flat-out fun of dancing with other kids, a tradition that almost died out in the 1980s. Prior to that, every mountain school and community center sponsored teams. Asheville's famed Youth Jamboree, hosted by Hubert Hayes, packed Thomas Wolfe auditorium from the '50s through the '70s.

"I grew up in Georgia. At my first competition there, a school bus pulled up and real mountain people got off," said Jeff Atkins, founder of the award winning Cole Mountain Cloggers. "It was Shirley Finger and the Dixie Darlings, from Waynesville. They were so impressive; we couldn't believe how good they were. They won everything, you couldn't beat them."

Atkins had been learning line and precision dance, but knew he was seeing the real thing and wanted that. Attending Mars Hill College on a clogging scholarship, Atkins worked to bring traditional clogging, big circle and smooth dance back to the college team, who at the time were only performing more modern precision clogging.

"One thing I noticed coming to join the Mars Hill Bailey Mountain Cloggers in '89, there were no young teams," Atkins said. "When the school teams fizzled out in the '70s, no one filled the void. There was one youth team in Canton, the Billy Bob Cloggers."

Traditional clogging had given way to modern competitive precision clogging, and while adult teams were surviving, youth teams had disappeared. Atkins got permission to teach family groups at the college and eventually had enough participants for a full youth team.

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More On the beat.....

(Continued from page 5)

"Joyce Ledford from the Leather and Lace Cloggers in Leicester helped us re-establish smooth dance," Atkins said. "I'd also seen the Pisgah View Ranch dancers who were quite famous but I didn't know them."

Piecing traditions together, the Bailey Mountain Cloggers once again became the premier dance team in the region. Atkins fell in love with teaching kids and by 1996 was teaching formal classes in studios and the roots of Cole Mountain were in the works. From 1997-2001 they performed as the Dimension Cloggers (named for the studio in Mars Hill where he taught), and in 2001, with a full set of kids, became Cole Mountain, dancing at traditional festivals across the region.

"Many people didn't realize it had slipped away," said Atkins, who is a past director of Asheville's Folk Heritage Committee and still volunteers with the nonprofit organization that falls under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce. "Our motto was keeping the mountain tradition thriving. We've been kind of looking to that as a committee.

"Locally, people who had danced all their life had began having families and have started teaching kids again." The committee asks for adherence to traditional costumes, style and choreography. A slow but steady revival spread across the mountains.

The Fines Creek Flatfooters started when dancers like Keith Silver from the Southern Appalachian Cloggers encouraged youngsters in the region. Tiffany Perkins directs that group; they appear at Shindig July 18.

Paul Cagle started the Mountain Tradition Cloggers, in Waynesville, about eight years ago with Christy Warren as his assistant. Cagle's son Zac began dancing at age 5 and now, at 15, leads the team as caller.

Both Cagle and Warren dance with the Dixie Darlin Cloggers. Cagle has danced for 50 years, since age 4; Warren's been dancing since she was 3, for 43 years.

"My son is Korey Warren, who plays in the band Sons of Ralph," Warren said. "He began dancing at the age of 4 and has passed it on to his daughter Charlotte Warren, who is 2 1/2. ... She made her first appearance at The Mountain Dance & Folk festival last year."

"When I was little, clogging was just something my whole family did together, some of the best times in my life have been dancing with my grandmother," Korey Warren said. "It was passed down to me and that's why I think it's important to pass it to my daughter to keep it alive."

Kristie Autrey and Atkins work together coaching the Mountaineer Cloggers, an after-school team in Mitchell County. Atkins met the Little River Cloggers from Eastern North Carolina while Cole Mountain performed at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh years ago. This will be their 4th year performing at Shindig.

The Avery County Smooth Dancers are a youth group preserving the original form of mountain dance, with no taps and a smooth sashay step instead of the more boisterous clogging. Siblings of different ages dance together on the same team; boys and girls work together, developing friendships and leadership skills.

"It is our hope to pass on a mountain tradition, while promoting teamwork and pride for our mountain heritage," Autrey said. "We are just a big family who love to dance."

Atkins agrees it takes a community to raise a clogging team.

Carol Rifkin writes about Appalachian culture for the Citizen-Times. Email her at CMRifkin@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events

October 24, 2015

OktoberClogFest Workshop
Donner Center
Columbus, IN
Naomi Pyle 812-579-6979
Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net

November 7, 2015

Appalachian Stomp
Carver Community Center
Purcellville, VA
Mary Smith info@BRTC.us
AppalachianStomp.com

November 7, 2015

The Great Texas Hoedown
Blanco, TX
Buster Green 830-980-3600
clogger@thegreenshomepage.com
Glen McCrary 214-455-1716
glenem72@cs.com
www.texas-clogging.com

November 13-15, 2015

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

November 25-28, 2015

29th Annual C.L.O.G. National Clogging
Convention
Baltimore, MC
David & Susan Phillips 678-889-4355
clog@clog.org
clog.org

Competitions

October 10, 2015

Deep South Dance Off (CCA)
Morton Theatre
Athens, GA
Heather Kohberger and Blake Dunn
dance@cloggingconnection.com
cloggingconnection.com

November 7, 2015

CCA Mountain Classic (CCA)
Polk County High School
Columbus, NC
Rhonda Wallen rwallen543@charter.net
Lynne Ogle ccalynne@aol.com
ccaclog.com

November 13-15, 2015

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

November 14, 2015

Fall Classic Clogging Championships
(CCA)
Kentucky Thoroughbred Center
Lexington, Kentucky
Jeff Driggs 304-610-6254
ccajeff@aol.com
Naomi Pyle 812-343-3285
Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net
cloggingcontest.com

February TBD, 2016

W Florida Clogging Festival (NCHC)
Alachua County Fairgrounds
Gainesville, FL
Andy Howard 352.494.0104
americanracket@gmail.com
www.floridaclogging.com
FI Clogging Festival Team Information

March TBD, 2016:

Winter Clogging Invitational (NCHC)
Saluda, NC
Chip Summey Ncjcs@aol.com

March TBD, 2016:

Northeast Clogging Competition
(NCHC) Quincy, MA
Beth Kendall 802.439.3349
www.freewebs.com/necc

April 1-2, 2016

City Slicker Stomp Competition (NCHC)
Independence, MO
Missy Shinoski kloghop@sbcglobal.net
www.CitySlickerStomp.Info

May TBD, 2016

Dollywood Clogging Classic (NCHC)
Pigeon Forge, TN
David & Susan Phillips
dccclog@gmail.com

May 7, 2016

Big Horn Showdown (NCHC)
Buffalo, WY
Shanell Hatch
shanellhatch05@gmail.com

Check with event coordinators to confirm event details!

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

June 18, 2016

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

June TBD, 2016

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

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Samantha Wilhelmi, NC
Cheryl L Dietz, OH
Linda Hamilton, VA
Kelsey Frey, IN

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

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Send the following info & check

Name Home Phone
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Clogging Group Membership
List membership in area, state, and/
or national clogging associations

To: **CLOG, Inc.**

**2986 Mill Park Court
Dacula, GA 30019**



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**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

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Schedule tentative and subject to Change



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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

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