



Clog-A-Gram

Official Newsletter of the Northern California Cloggers Association, Inc.

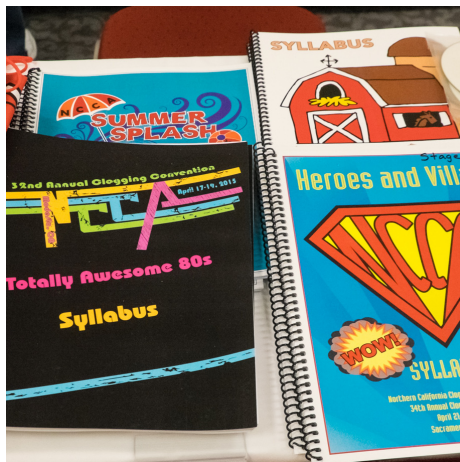
Volume 39 Issue 3

July 2018

NCCA's 35th Annual Convention



**Welcome, cloggers,
to NCCA's 35th
annual convention!**



A selection of photos from our 35th annual convention in Sacramento this past April. Read more about it inside.

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Northern California Cloggers Association, Inc.

Clog-A-Gram

STATEMENT

The CLOG-A-GRAM is published by the Northern California Cloggers Association, Inc. The purpose is communication among members of N.C.C.A., Inc. and cloggers everywhere. Anyone may submit material for publication. The editor will reserve the right to edit, condense or rewrite any items submitted to the newsletter. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor or of N.C.C.A., Inc.

DEADLINES

Deadline for all material for each newsletter is two weeks before each Quarterly Dance.

Next deadline: Oct. 13, 2018

ADVERTISING

Please submit your ad to the editor by the publishing deadline (see above) with check or money order made out to N.C.C.A. (Contact the editor if you wish to pay another way.)

Ads can be camera ready (black & white is best), or you can submit all the information to the editor for layout. Please allow two extra weeks for layout and proof of a new ad.

RATES & SIZES:

(based on single issue only)

1/3 page (7.5 x 3.25") \$10

1/2 page (7.5 x 5") \$15

Full Page (7.5 x 10.25") \$20

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are gladly accepted for each issue. Please send your club news, listing revisions, articles, ads, and more to the editor. See page 9 for more information.

CONTACT

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FROM THE OLD AND NEW EDITORS

A Thank you from Kellee

This is a very bittersweet message. After 18 years as the NCCA *Clog-A-Gram* Editor, I am officially hanging up my editor's hat. I have had an absolute wonderful time in this capacity but it's time to move on. I am not moving on from clogging in anyway shape or form, don't worry!! I just need to take a few things off my very busy plate. I am finally starting to realize that no one can do it all. Thank you all for your wonderful contributions to the newsletter. Thank you all for watching things change and grow and morph.

I am THRILLED to hand things over to Lois Elling. She is not only an amazing NCCA mentor, she is an awesome photographer and editor!! In fact she was the *CAG* editor in the early 90's. When she said she was interested in doing it again, I could not be more excited. I can't wait to dive into the first issue she produces!! Thank you for an awesome 18-year run.

Kellee

Greetings from Lois

This issue of the *Clog-A-Gram* has a new editor (me) and a slightly new look. Kellee Ramirez has held the editor's job since 2000 (Wow! 18 years!), along with her many, many other jobs at NCCA. If you read her article in the last *Clog-A-Gram*, you got a peek at some of the work that's involved in putting convention together. These things don't happen automatically; they only do because of some very dedicated folks. Besides being editor, Kellee is also NCCA's treasurer, handles Step Dictionary sales, directs Aftershock—and those are just her clogging hats. Thank you to Kellee for her dedication to NCCA in so many ways and the wonderful work she's done with the *Clog-A-Gram*.

Now... I'm going to need YOUR help. Please don't let this be a one-person sounding board. I need your club news, articles, updates, events, tidbits, cartoons (not copyrighted, please), and more. Please see more about this on page 9.

Lois

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Thanks so much for attending NCCA's 35th convention in April. We hope you had a great weekend and thoroughly enjoyed yourselves! Thanks to many eager volunteers and the awesome NCCA Board, this year's event flowed seamlessly.

Next year's convention planning is underway and we'll communicate more details when we have them. Putting on a successful convention is the effort of many people and we appreciate everyone who helps and everyone who attends from near and far!

Be sure to check out the Upcoming Events in the CAG to learn of all the workshops. The next workshop is the Blossom Hill Festival at a new location in Castro Valley. The fun happens on July 21!

Once summer is behind us, I look forward to seeing you at the Late Harvest Stomp in Santa Rosa. This year's Stomp is Saturday, October 27th. I happen to have the inside scoop on the Late Harvest Stomp and my sources tell me that RCC is planning a super-fun day! In addition to a day of clogging, there will be plenty of food, awesome raffle prizes, great decorations and a group of enthusiastic cloggers (RCC, of course!) who are eager to welcome you.

I hope you have a fun summer that is full of clogging!

Clog On!
Michele Hill

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT'S MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hi Everyone:

I hope your summer so far has been fun. We have 127 members of which 31 memberships have expired, 13 memberships were renewed and we gained one new member. Please welcome our new member Norma Rife. Norma was previously an NCCA member and instructor.

Please be sure to renew your membership, if you are unsure of when your due date is please

feel free to email me at clogndn@aol.com. Another reminder is to update your email address with us as this is how we are sending reminders and the NCCA *Clog-A-Grams*. Hope the rest of your summer is good.

See you on the dance floor.

Deann Norris
Vice-President of Membership

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report for the 2nd quarter (April–June) of 2018 submitted by Kellee Ramirez.

	Beg. Balance	Income	Expenses	End Balance
Clog-A-Gram	\$1,273.91	\$180.00	\$192.00	\$1,261.91
Insurance	\$955.00	\$66.00	–	\$1,021.00
Corp. Expenses	\$620.97	\$34.90	–	\$655.87
Dictionary	\$1,160.98	\$90.36	–	\$1,251.34
Convention 2018	\$7,696.07	\$9,173.04	\$19,637.12	(\$2,768.01)
Convention 2019	–	–	–	–
Reserve Fund	\$2,624.18	–	–	\$2,624.18
Public Relations	\$1,966.41	\$61.00	–	\$2,027.41
Total	\$16,297.52	\$9,605.30	\$19,829.12	\$6,073.70

Hello NCCA members!

It has only been three months since we all went home tired from Convention 2018, and yet we are already in the planning stages for Convention 2019. Themes have been considered and dates have been proposed. We are trying our best to secure a good date for next year's event, and we are hopeful that we can do it, even though the competition is fierce for convention space at hotels. Wish us luck as we move forward in the planning process for 2019!

In other convention news, Heather has decided that, with the birth of her new baby boy,

she will step down from her duties as co-VP of convention. I will miss having Heather as my convention partner, but I can say with confidence that we all understand the need to prioritize family.

Clog on!

Sarah Dwight-Gilroy

VP of Convention

MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES

NCCA Convention General Meeting April 28th, 2018 in Sacramento, California

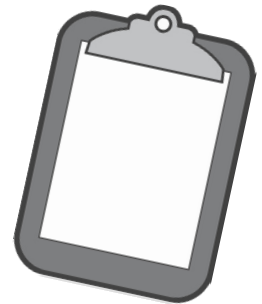
Michele Hill opened the meeting during the dinner show at Convention. She kept it short and sweet. She thanked everyone for attending and pointed out that all officer reports are in the Clog-A-Gram.

The Convention in general went very well and it seemed like everyone had a good time. The new breakfast/dinner set up was well received. We have even more attendees from Oregon, Washington and Southern California than last year. Keep coming and encourage your friends to come too!!

Some of the big prize winners were: Wine & Chocolate, Julie of Southern California; the Gift Card Tree, Sarah B. of Nevada; the bundle of four NCCA events, Marianne; and the Bose Speaker, Sarah Dwight-Gilroy.

Some Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Blossom Hill Festival,
July 21 in Castro Valley
NEW LOCATION
- ◆ SCCA Convention "SoCal Shindig"
August 24-26 in La Mirada
- ◆ Tommyknocker Jamboree,
September 15 in Nevada City
- ◆ Late Harvest Stomp, "We're back!"
October 27, Santa Rosa



Respectfully submitted,
Donna Case

NCCA General meetings are held at the Quarterly Workshops.
Next meeting is Oct. 27 at Late Harvest Stomp, Santa Rosa, California.

Barnyard Boogie:

The 35th Annual NCCA Convention

By Lois Elling



35th Annual Convention
Sacramento, California
April 27-28, 2018

Note: Photos by Lois Elling. For additional pictures from convention, go to loiselling.com and click on "Clogging" (bottom right).

NCCA Convention Totals

# of Dances taught	23
# of Teachers	16
# of Dancers	135
# of Halls	2
# of Performances	19
Total:	195



What a great weekend cloggers had at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento April 27–28. We had good floors for dancing on, thanks to the efforts and donations of many people. Besides Northern and Southern California dancers, there were cloggers from Oregon, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, and Canada. Whoo hoo! Thanks to all the dancers who made it to Sacramento for the weekend.

When arriving, dancers entered the barnyard full of all sorts of animals. They might see a pig or horse or even a cow manning the registration table. Many headed over to the barn for a photo-op complete with pitchfork, straw hat, and cow. (Thanks to Barbara Mendez and her crew for that.)



Decorations

16 instructors kept the dancers hopping in two halls from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening. Mary Dart from Washington taught for the first time at NCCA, although she's already known to many Northern California cloggers from teaching at local workshops. Shannon Harding from Southern California also taught for the first time. Many dancers are familiar with her for be-

Captions of Photos on Front Cover

(Top left to bottom right)

1. Deann and Wayne
2. Welcome Sign
3. Sarah and Kellee teaching
4. Raffle Tickets
5. Lu, Jay Jay, and Kris at Registration
6. Ginny's T-shirts
7. Ian and other dancers
8. NCCA Convention Syllabuses
9. Debbie, Lindsey, and Trevor from Oregon



Dancers on Saturday night.

ing Eric Bice's sister, for teaching in Southern California, and for being the featured instructor at ClogDown in Washington earlier this year. Mike McDow and Barb Guenette were two other out-of-state instructors, and Mary Gasteiger also came up from Southern California. It's great to have a chance to experience teachers from other areas.

A total of 23 new dances were taught from easy-intermediate through advanced. *How will I ever find time to do them all?!* In addition, there were three step workshops where dancers could hone their skills. Everybody should try some buck dancing basics at least once.



Regina and Deann at Registration

Things started off on Friday with a few workshops, finishing that off with Sarah and Kellee teaching Jeff Driggs' dance to *Roadhouse*, which the

dancers had a blast with. That was immediately followed by a fun dance until 10:30.

Friday night's sleep time seemed way too short, but there was more clogging to be done starting at 9:00 am. Or, for those who wanted a good warm-up, there was Zumba at 8:15 am led by Kellee. I admire those who get up early to participate in this and feel guilty that I don't.

Saturday was a full day of workshops in two halls. Lunch was grabbed in the restaurant or from a nearby eatery. However, those who left to

eat were choosing food over more clogging. At 4:00 dancers got a break, unless they were performing in the Saturday night show. Performers had a quick rehearsal, then grabbed food and changed to get ready for the show. Non-performers had a more relaxing break and could take their time enjoying the buffet set out by the hotel. This year it was set up so folks could go eat at the time that worked best for them, which made for a less stressful dinner experience.



Michelle

Before the show started, Ian Enriquez was awarded an NCCA pin for having taught at 10 conventions, and Loni O'Donley was awarded an NCCA pin for having taught at 20 conventions. Congratulations to both Ian and Loni!

As always, the exhibition show was tons of fun with a variety of dances and some awesome clogging. Thanks to all the dancers and groups who put in so much hard work to entertain us!



Ian and Loni receiving pins

After the show there was even more clogging with the Saturday night dance party. The wall



Dancers at Friday night dance

CONVENTION PHOTOS • EXHIBITIONS

Photos by Lois Elling with help by Jamie Geoffroy.



Clogging Express • Mussel Rock Cloggers • Foot Knocking Thunder Tommys



Redwood Country Cloggers • Silicon Valley Stompers



ClogDown Crew • Ian and Silas • Clear Lake Clickers



Sarah & Heather • Jubilee American Dance Theatre • Silas Allen • Tommyknocker Cloggers



Jubilee American Dance Theatre • Lolirock Band • Aftershock • Clogging Express



Mussel Rock Cloggers • Tommyknockers Feet of Thunder • Lonely Juanas



It's always good to see friends. Michelle and Mike; Janice and Barb.

familiar with is not easy, especially when you're also on stage and have others watching you. But we weren't expected to be perfect and it made



Ilan about to teach

for a lot of laughs. Besides clogging and eating, there was even more stuff going on at convention. The registration table—manned by barnyard animals, as you can see in the pictures—was a focal point where registration was handled, questions were answered, shirts and other items were sold, and of course, our sweet tooth (‘‘our sweet teeth’’?)



Dancers

between the halls was opened up and there were teachers on both stages. The scheduled teacher cued on the main stage toward the large group of dancers. On the other stage, behind that cuer, another teacher had to demonstrate the same dance for the dancers in the second hall—even though they often didn't know that dance! Believe me, following the cues for a dance you're not



Heather cueing with Barb and Sarah demonstrating

satisfied by the usual bowl of M&Ms.

Vendors included photography (by me), embroidered shirts and bags and more by Ginny Bartes, who came all the way from Arizona, Rodan+Fields by Kellee Ramirez, Color Street Nails by Tamie Mancini, Melaluca by Heather



Kellee & Hailey's table

Pinneo, Scentsy by Anna Smith, and Sweet Tap Cookies by Hailey Ramirez. Did you see those cookies?! What a cute idea. Yum!

Oh yes, and there were raffle prizes, or I should say, ‘‘RAFFLE PRIZES!’’ They needed extra tables and extra raffle tickets for the all the prizes, which were especially nice. Needless to say, the raffle was pretty popular.

Many thanks to all the dancers who made the weekend so fun, the teachers for sharing their talents, and the committee for all the work they do to make it happen. I can't wait to see what next year's convention brings.



Raffle prizes

The Object of My Desire

By Liz Mackay Wickham

The quickening pulse. The rapid, shallow breathing. The warm flush of the cheeks. The rush of adrenaline infusing electricity into every extremity. That inner glow that brings an unconscious smile to the lips. The involuntary sigh.

We are all in love, and we are waiting impatiently. Will it be Ian? Sarah? Eric? Leslie? It doesn't matter. Because while each of us in this amorously overcharged throng has a different favorite, the object of our desire isn't a person. And yet...

Ian steps onto the stage and turns on the music, and I feel an invisible force reach out and grab me by the throat. I'm certain that of all the people in the room, I'm the one on his mind. From the first hypnotic bars of "Fireball," I'm powerless to resist. He calls the steps. My mind goes blank, but my body knows what to do. Oh, Ian, you know me so well!

And yet... this isn't about Ian. It's about the dance. And it's complicated.

Clogging. You can't do it with anything but full-on enthusiasm and energy. You can't do it well without being in love.

Some people describe dancing as "the closest thing to sex standing up," but what do they mean? Two people dancing as partners with no room for air between them? Line dancing when ten people move as one sinuous body? Moves could be anything: shuffle, cha cha, square dance, tango, hip hop, whirling-dervish twirls, "Fred and Ginger" type jazz moves... anything you can do to a 4/4 beat. And the music? Could be bluegrass, country, hip hop... it's at once critically important and irrelevant. Anything at all with a decent tempo and a 4/4 beat.

"Royals" by Lorde. "Cake by the Ocean" by DNCE. "Angel in Bluejeans" by Train. "On Top of the World" by Imagine Dragons. "Super Bass" by

Nicki Minaj. "My House" by Flo Rida. Or this.

The Pitbull video is a sex-infused, live-action, adult cartoon with tough guys in gangster suits and crazy beautiful, scantily clad dancers. But "Fireball" the clogging dance is none of that, even though the pace demands footwork as fast as anything onscreen. To me personally, the dance is better than the video because it's something I can do—full on, without a partner, and unabashed even though I'm on a dance floor with a hundred other people.

I've worked hard to learn the steps, trying to engage both brain and feet. Sometimes the name of a step will telegraph the movement—like "Shuffle" or "Vine." Or maybe it's forgotten, complicated eight-count steps with names that reveal nothing: "Birmingham." "Ida Red." "New York." Or typical Ian "from scratch" maneuvers: "Unicorn." "Praying Mantis." "Finnicky."

This particular routine has taken me a while, using the cue sheet and a YouTube video. I even took Ian to lunch once as a bribe to teach me the more elusive steps: "Birdcage," an eight-count step riddled with slurs, drag steps, and basics, all done in a box; and "Blitz" that starts out like one step but ends like something else all together. I'm still shaky. But as the music gets rolling and the dancers move into informal lines and columns, I feel a surge of confidence and elation. There's nothing that can quite match the heady exhilaration

of dancing a challenging routine all the way through, steps correct and in place, and at the tempo the music was meant to be played—or faster! And that's what I aim to do.



... as the music gets rolling and the dancers move into informal lines and columns, I feel a surge of confidence and elation.

"Fireball" starts with several steps with random names—"Me and You," "Jughead," "Joey," "Cotton-Eyed Joe," "Summey Vine," "Jim Jam"—steps done in so many other dances in different combinations that we have become intimately familiar. Then there's a "Blast-Off." Lots of speed and energy forward with two little hip bumps at the end. And that's not even the first third of the dance.

On to the next section with a couple of Snakes and a Blitz. Then some repeats, and—uh oh! The Birdcage, three times, in a box, moving to the right. I miss an important drag step in the middle and end up on the wrong foot. Why does the music suddenly seem to be getting faster? But in the heat of the moment, nobody notices—and why would they? No one cares about anything but what's going on with their own feet, their own body. Just keep moving... and by the end of the Blast-Off, I'm throwing in the hip bumps in sync with the rhythm.

And here's the best part: Just about all the steps repeat at some point, with the first half of every dance a kind of foreplay leading to a crescendo.

Around we go again with the second half, and this time I see the steps coming; all the moves are in the right place. The room is heating up all the while. Endorphins may not be contagious, but we are flying in sync across the floor, en masse, lightheaded, mindless, and joyous. As with that other amorous physical activity, I cannot perform this act without smiling all the way through.

The energy continues to build, and we're almost at the climax. One last, very long round of steps in a box, each turn increasing in intensity if not in speed. A repeat section, twice through, and finally the dance peaks with one more Blast-Off and those hip bumps.

Laughter erupts, as it always does at the end. We are out of breath but ecstatic, exhausted from the outpouring of adrenaline, and flashing each other smiles although we're mostly strangers. Joy and sweat fill the room, and the tide begins to recede. Ian—a little out of breath himself—thanks the crowd, and I catch his eye. I wonder if he, too, feels like stepping outside for a cigarette.

But then I see Lois waiting in the wings, fondling her cue sheet. I know what's next: "My

Type," by Saint Motel. "You're just my type... you have a pulse and you are breathing." It seems Lois and I have something in common... I, too, am in love with this peculiar song and dance.

I lick my lips and rub sweaty palms on jean-clad thighs. "Come on, girl," I whisper. "One more time around the room. Just you and me."

Liz danced with the Diablo Mountain Cloggers and Clogging Express in the Bay Area. After she retired from Shaklee in 2017, she and her husband John moved to Forest Hill, Oregon. She continues to clog with the Carousel Cloggers.

Be a Part of Your Clog-A-Gram!

Submissions Requested

Did you have an fun time at convention or did something interesting happen to you there? Do you admire someone in the clogging world? Did you finally learn how to master a particular step? How did your first experience at a performance go? Who has influenced you most in clogging? Do you have a funny clogging story you could share?

If so, tell us about it! You needn't write a long article; a paragraph or two is fine if that's all it takes to tell your story. I know there are cloggers out there who would be willing to share some of their thoughts—I hope that's you. If you do, this newsletter will be more interesting to everyone.

How to Submit

All articles and photos can be sent to me at lois.elling@pacbell.net. Please send photos separately, rather than embedded in a pdf or Word document. I prefer to receive photos in as large a resolution as possible. I can always size them down, but can't enlarge them without sacrificing quality.

For text, such as articles and club news, I'm happy to receive documents in txt, doc, docx, pages, rtf formats or just typed in the body of the email.

For photographs, I can work with jpg/jpeg, tiff, or ps files best. I'll take gif files only if that's the only option, but those tend to be low quality and may not print well.

CLUB NEWS

We welcome club news from all clogging groups, whether in Northern California or not. Note that your news may be edited for length or clarity. Come on! Let us know what you've been up to. Submit your news to the editor. See page 9 for more information.

Silicon Valley Stompers

By Sarah Dwight-Gilroy

Silicon Valley Stompers brought eight cloggers to convention, including two first time attendees, and everyone had a great time performing and learning new dances.

We always welcome new members to our group. We meet on Tuesdays from 6:00-9:00pm, starting with beginners and going up through advanced. Currently we are in Los Altos at the Hillview Community Center, Room 4. Questions? Contact Sarah Dwight-Gilroy: loudfeetdancer@gmail.com.



Silicon Valley Stompers at NCCA Convention.

Mussel Rock Cloggers

By Ian Enriquez

Shortly before convention, we had to say goodbye to Edna, who moved to Sacramento to be closer to her sister. Luckily, she will be able to continue clogging there with Janice and we'll still get to see her at workshops and events.

We have recently started a new beginners session (in June and July) with three new cloggers. Hopefully they will stick with it when the session is over.



Mussel Rock Cloggers at NCCA Convention.

In August, we will return to our regular schedule: Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00, intermediate and advanced, at Danz-Haus in San Francisco. Questions? Contact Sarah: loudfeetdancer@gmail.com

Mussel Rock performed several times this last quarter, including Sundance Saloon's anniversary, NCCA, the Berkeley World Music Festival (where we premiered our routine to *Roundtable Rival*), San Francisco City Hall, and at a benefit for Dimensions Clinic (where we premiered a group routine to *Mi Gente*).

Our next performance will be at SCCA in August!

Performance group meets right after class, from 8:00-10:00. Questions? Contact Ian: ian@barbarycoast.org



Mussel Rock Cloggers at NCCA Convention.

Lincoln Hills Cloggers

By Janice Hanzel

We've had a great time learning some of the dances taught at convention. Summer is upon us and many of the dancers are traveling to far away places or coming home from far away places. It's nice to see dancers back on the dance

floor. We're saddened to learn one of our dancers passed away after a long battle with cancer. Karen Robinson was such a delight to have in class and a great supporter and cheerleader. We will miss her. Our deepest condolences to Randy Robinson. We wish Hal Sowers a speedy recovery from back surgery. We miss his smiling face and unique style of dancing. Welcome Edna Stewart to our dance floor.

Roseville Cloggers

By Janice Hanzel

We've just finished our demo at the installation dance and are excited for two of our dancers: Shelly Winters became the new president of the Dance Club, and Susie Harper is the new V.P. Congratulations, Shelly and Susie!. We're hoping to entice some new dancers after our very quick how-to at the dance (boy were we surprised to see at least 50 people on the dance floor for the 15-minute teach) and look forward to a full 2-hour workshop in September to encourage other dancers and residents to come join in on the fun. We've got our fingers crossed!

RocLinRose Cloggers

By Janice Hanzel

We miss you Hal Sowers. Speedy recovery! Welcome back Bobbie Henley. Nice to see you back on the dance floor. Condolences to Carol Vaughn on the loss of her husband, Glenn. Glad to see you back. Welcome back to dancers who have been away on vacation. Hello to Edna Stewart, a recent transplant from Oakland/SF area. Summer is on us and we're having fun learning dances from convention and past workshops. We just have fun doing what we love—clogging! See you on the clogging floor.



The Redwood Country Cloggers starring 'That Man' at NCCA's Convention.

Redwood Country Cloggers

by Michele Hill

Many of us attended NCCA's Convention in April and we had a blast! There were lots of great dances, a festive atmosphere, and good times catching up with friends! We are already eager for next year's convention!

Our performing season is underway with fairs and a variety of other shows. The audiences have been enthusiastic and we are hopeful that some will join our next beginner class in the fall.



The Redwood Country Cloggers dancing at the Marin County Fair.

After summer, our sites are set on RCC's annual Late Harvest Stomp workshop. This year's event is Saturday, October 27th. We are planning a SUPER-FUN day and hope you will join us!

CLUB NEWS

We are especially looking forward to this year's Stomp since we had to cancel last year's event due to the wildfires. Check out the flyer in this issue of the CAG and we'll see you there!

Aftershock Cloggers

By Kellee Ramirez

Happy Summer everyone. We hope you are staying cool and having fun on the dance floor. We had a blast at convention this year and really enjoyed performing our new routine for you all. This is the VERY FIRST time we have ever gotten a picture of us in costume before an NCCA performance. Now, we are busy getting ready for our State Fair performances. Please pray for good weather and not scorching heat!! See you all on a dance floor soon.



Aftershock before performing at NCCA convention, 2018.

Diablo Mountain Cloggers

By Lois Elling

We have one new clogger from our beginning class this spring. Welcome to Maria, who has already performed with us! She missed a whole month because she'd already planned a motorcycle trip through Scotland. I can't understand why she opted to go on the trip rather than clog, but perhaps she'll adjust her priorities after having clogged a bit longer.



Members of the Diablo Mountain Cloggers with our newest member/graduate, Maria, in front.

For the last several weeks the group has been working really hard practicing all the dances to be danced at the Alameda County Fair. They even all learned a new hoedown routine. Maria and Anna joined us on stage for the first time. The day of the fair performance was very hot and we had a mid-afternoon time slot. The group hung in there, took extra breaks if needed, and did an awesome job. Thanks to all the club members plus Clogging Express, and also Blossom Hill Cloggers for working hard and putting on a good show. Some of us are a bit pink in the photo because it was taken **after** we performed in the heat. Root beer floats, cold sodas, and beers were popular after we danced.

Blossom Hill Cloggers

By Lois Elling

We recently graduated two new cloggers. Welcome to the group, Michele and Jennifer. Sharon and Ann from the class in the fall are also still continuing.



Blossom Hill Cloggers with two new graduates, Michele and Jennifer.

The day of our Blossom Hill Festival is almost here. We hope many of you are reading this *Clog-*



Members of Clogging Express, Diablo Mountain Cloggers, and Blossom Hill Cloggers after performing at the Alameda County Fair, July 2018. Many red faces were due to the heat.

A-Gram at the workshop. We're excited about our new venue, the Hayward-Castro Valley Moose Lodge. It's a nice location and we think the hall will work well for us. Instructors for the day are Sarah Dwight-Gilroy, Ian Enriquez, Janice Hanzel, Ginny Bartes, Kellee Ramirez, and Carol Smith, so expect something for everyone.

Clogging Express

Lois Elling

Dancing at the NCCA Convention in April was a blast for us, as always. This year we danced our slightly modified version of *Clap Your Hands* and introduced our routine, *Perkins Medley*, named for Carl Perkins. A few members also performed with this year's ClogDown Crew, Carol and Wen also danced with Mussel Rock, and Casey and Carol danced with Silicon Valley. It just reinforces the idea that all cloggers are really one big family.

The first weekend of July found us performing at the Alameda County Fair with the Diablo Mountain Cloggers. We danced several of our routines, as well as the line dances and the new hoedown routine with Diablo. Unfortunately, this was Geoff's last performance with us, as he's moving on to learn other styles of dancing. We hope to continue to see him at club, though. We have also lost a long-time member, Marcy, who

has moved to the Seattle area and will be teaching school in Washington. We wish her the best and hope to see her at a workshop before long.

Soon we'll start gearing up for performances in August, September, and November, as well as start on new material. When we start working on new things, it's a good time for new folks to join us. Contact Lois if you're interested in dancing with Clogging Express.

Clear Lake Clikkers

Michelle John-Smith

The Clear Lake Clikkers are alive and well, though we've recently lost dance time due to the wonderful Cal Fire fighters who use the fairgrounds (where we hold class) as a staging area for the wild fires already burning around us. Summer time always brings busy dancers, lower attendance and vacations, but we dance on. We had 9 cloggers who attended NCCA convention, and for Kathy & Kristin, not only was it their first convention, but also their first workshop. Needless to say, they had a great time. 5 of us also performed our version of 'This Train' at the exhibition show. Looking ahead, we will be starting a new beginners class middle of September. As time flies, it will be here before we know it!!

When Teaching Isn't Easy

We all get those students now and then who absorb everything we say and seem to be able to perfect a step with one walk-through. We also, probably wish we had more students like that—teaching clogging would always be easy. Of course, there are very few students who are like that. Most of our classes are made up of average folks who do learn, but take a bit longer to become an accomplished clogger.

And then we all have dancers now and then who are on the opposite end of the spectrum. We may wonder if they'll ever do a Basic correctly or be able to stay on the beat. I've had many of these dancers and find that they do learn; it just takes much more time and sometimes some creative teaching.

Teaching students who learn quickly is easy. It's teaching the average dancer and especially the less-than-average dancer, that is hard. But it's those dancers who will also stretch our own abilities as teachers.

Say you have a student in a small class who is falling behind everyone else. Although you've reviewed a Brush step many time, they still aren't doing it correctly. If the class is large, you may decide to move on and then give individual help at another time. However, if your class is small, you must find another way to reach that student. There's always another approach to learning a basic movement or step. Perhaps relate it to something completely different from clogging. Perhaps you can break the combination down even smaller, such as work just a Brush by itself, then later work a Slide or Heel Click by itself, and eventually put them together. Maybe the dancer just needs the combination slowed down and repeated more times.

It could be that there's something about the movement that is difficult for them physically. This is more likely with older dancers. If this is the case,

then find an alternative for them. As an example, I've always taught Slides in my classes and expect dancers to be able to execute a Slide rather than just a heel click. However, there are conditions or reasons for doing just a heel click, such as a sticky floor, improper shoes, a dancer's bad knees, etc.

When you've exhausted your usual bag of tricks for teaching a combination, and none of them have worked, that's when you have to be creative and think up a new method. It's these dancers who will stretch our own minds and make us better teachers. So be thankful for them.

Forgot Something?

It happens to the best of us at one time or another. We get to class and discover we don't have... our shoes, microphone, sound equipment, class notes, or some other essential item. Panic! What to do?

Once you're at that point, your options are probably limited. But if you plan ahead you may be able to minimize the interruption to your class. Since I have left things home many times over the years, I've learned to plan for my occasional lapses.

Back-Up Plan

The main thing is to prepare backups for yourself. Certain items can be duplicated and kept in the trunk of your car, such as a microphone or clogging shoes. My back-up microphone is not wireless, but it still works when the other one is left at home, doesn't have a battery, or has gone on the blink. However, there have also been times when I didn't have my back-up mic and had to use my alternate back-up—a small mic that Deann keeps in her car. She has saved me from having to stretch my voice all night more than once. And you do always carry fresh batteries for your wireless mic, don't you?

One more thing I've done is make cued versions of some clogging dances. This way, if my voice goes

Teachers' Forum Notes is published as a supplement to the N.C.C.A. *Clog-A-Gram* for those interested in the teaching and leadership aspects of clogging. All articles are by Lois Elling unless otherwise noted. Submissions are welcome and requested. For submissions or comments, contact:

Lois Elling, 16000 Marcella St., San Leandro, CA 94578
(510) 278-8621 • Email: Lois.Elling@pacbell.net

out or I don't have a microphone, I can play cued music for the dancers. The quality of the cues is never as good as live cues, but it's better than wearing out my voice all night.

For years I kept a set of CDs in the trunk with some hoedowns and classic clogging songs on them, but these days I can only use CDs at one of my venues. If you use CDs, however, having spares will at least give you music for your class, even if it's not the music you need.

Now that I use an iPad for my music, I keep my back-up music on a small iPod. It's not that expensive and I like to use it to listen to (non-clogging) music in the car. The iPod is also pretty small, so it doesn't add bulk to my bag. If something happens to my iPad, I can play some classics or hoedown music on my iPod and get through the class. I first used my iPod for clogging about a month after I got it and the iPad was left at home. I don't have music on my phone but many people do. Your smart phone is a good back-up for at least keeping a few pieces of clogging music, as you're more likely to have that with you. Whatever your back-up device is, I suggest you keep it somewhere other than your clogging bag, for if you leave your clogging bag home, you don't have either.

If you have a reliable and regular dancer, you might consider having them keep a back up of some music on their own device or one that you give them.

Back up sound equipment might be more difficult; most people don't want to carry two complete sound systems around. However, you might be able to make do in a pinch with one of the many portable speakers available for small devices. I have one that uses Bluetooth, so I don't need a patch cord. It's not powerful enough for a large room, but can help with just a small group of dancers. I often use mine for a mini-practice/walk-through before a performance. Be sure to try it out at home before you need it. Sometimes the set up takes figuring out, so get yourself familiar with it, first.

Options

Now, what to do when you plan back-ups, and STILL end up at class without something important. All is not lost.

No shoes? Dance in your street shoes or borrow from one of your dancers. Teaching in street shoes is

certainly not ideal, but it's better than not teaching at all. A few months ago I found myself in that position and had to teach in rubber-soled shoes. Although I could dance fine, the dancers had more trouble following me. They couldn't hear my tap sounds, which help them stay on beat and understand the steps. I also realized the difference in the sound in the beginning class—it wasn't good. So I now know what I need to work on with my dancers—how to make cleaner tap sounds.

No microphone? If you've exhausted your back-ups, then you'll have to teach without voice amplification. This is harder for larger classes than small ones. You'll need to speak much louder, of course, but also more slowly and clearly. Avoid yelling; your voice won't last long if you do that. You can help save your voice by limiting your cues to just the basics or most necessary words, i.e. "Clogover" rather than "8-count Clogover Vine to the left." I've learned to include hand directions, such as pointing left or right, circling my hand above my head to indicate a turn, or even holding up a certain number of fingers. It's important to always turn your head towards the dancers when giving a cue so they have a better chance of hearing you.

No music? Ask your dancers what music they have on their phones or other devices. You might find there's something usable. You can still drill steps, teach steps, and practice sequences without music—it just gets monotonous after a while. This could be a good chance to work on improving their taps sounds. Take a break from dancing for a bit and have a treat, a club meeting, or just chat with each other for a while. I always feel I don't get enough time to talk with my dancers at classes, anyway.

No equipment? Once again, you'll need to go a cappella for the night. And when making your back-up plans, think about all the cords you need. I can remember having everything I needed at class, except the power cord for my amp. Without that I had nothing. To avoid this we need to be diligent about making sure every item gets packed away properly, especially if others are helping you. I can only blame myself for leaving out that power cord, though. I'd left it at the studio for my other class, but luckily retrieved it the next week.

Checklists

As I've gotten older I've realized the importance of checklists. These can save you from an uncomfortable night of dancing without an important item.

My father-in-law had a verbal checklist before he went out every day: "ID card, liberty card, cigarettes, matches." (He was a Navy man.) My aunt had a sticky-note by her front door with "W K G" which reminded her to always take her wallet, keys, and glasses when she left. I have a small list posted by my swim bag that reminds me to check every single item I need for the pool, because I have even left my towel at home!

A few things that may be on a checklist for clogging class are:

- Sound equipment:
amp, speaker, cords (list each cord needed), microphone, receiver (if wireless), batteries for mic
- Shoes
- Water bottle
- Class plan or notes
- Cue cards or cue sheets
- Keys to hall

Having an emergency back-up plan is like preparing for an earthquake—you don't want to use it but you'll be glad you have it if you do need to.

How Much Practice Do You Need?

We all need to practice clogging, no matter how many years we've been doing it. Whether it's to learn a new step, memorize a routine, or just improve our technique, practicing is the key. What's the best way to practice? It may vary for different people, but here are some tips from the experts.

- Consistency is important. If you practice 10 minutes EVERY day, you'll improve over the long run.
- Don't burn out by trying to practice 2 hours each day.
- Be realistic; set yourself a goal that you can reach.
- Make the practice a habit—every day or every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, etc.
- Don't make it a monumental effort—consistency is more important. The average time spent each week is what counts.

Don't Clean Before You Write

An article in the New York Times shows how messy spaces are more conducive to boosting creativity. Independent studies have even confirmed this. It seems that people have a tendency to act more conventionally when in a clean and organized room or space. However, when in a messy room, people tend to prefer something new or novel, and will come up with new ideas more often. Huh! Guess I don't have to feel so bad about not cleaning up my desk.

You can read the article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/15/opinion/sunday/its-not-mess-its-creativity.html>

*Creativity is not just for making art
or dances. It includes coming up
with smart solutions to problems.*

Dances From Recent Workshops

NCCA Convention, Sacramento, Apr. 27-28

Bella Belle (Perry)	Adv
Caught Up in You (Gasteiger, Spence)	Int+
Dirt on My Boots (Dart)	Easy-Int
Empires (Guenette)	Easy-Int
Everywhere I Go (O'Donley)	Easy-Int
Fisher's Hornpipe (Mitchell)	Int
Fred Astaire (Elling)	Int
Girl Like You, A (John-Smith)	Easy-Int
Grey Goose Chase (Gasteiger)	Int
Havana (Hill)	Int++
It's a Good Feeling (Hanzel)	Easy-Int
Keep It Lit (Thomas)	Int
Killer Queen (C.Smith)	Int
Like We Were Kids Again (McDow)	Easy-Int
No Excuses (Ramirez)	Easy-Int
No Roots (Harding)	Int
Old MacDonald (Woodall)	Int
One Foot (Dwight-Gilroy)	Adv
Roadhouse (Driggs, Pflugh)	Int
Say Amen (Enriquez)	Adv
Shake It Off (C.Smith)	Easy-Int
Spirit in the Sky (Nodelman)	Int
Trip Around the Sun (John-Smith)	Int

Nevada County Tommyknocker Cloggers

Present

Clogging Jamboree



September 15, 2018

New Location!



New Location!

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700 Hoover Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959**

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Lunch & Snacks provided

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Make checks payable to **NCTC** and mail to:

Nevada County Tommyknocker Cloggers, PO Box 2481, Grass Valley, CA 95945

For more information, please contact Carol Smith @ 530 559-3904 or gonecloggin@gmail.com

	Pre-Registration:	At The Door:
Saturday Workshops/Dance	___ @ \$18 = \$ ___	___ @ \$23 = \$ ___
Syllabus	___ @ \$ 2 = \$ ___	___ @ \$ 2 = \$ ___
	Total = \$ ___	Total = \$ ___

Name: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

NOTE: For directions and motel information, get the full flyer on NCCA's website: http://ncca-inc.com/Upcoming_Events.html

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Dinner: ~ 6:30pm
Mini Dance: after dinner

For more information, please contact
Michele Hill at: millier_hill@yahoo.com
or (707) 523-2564

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Directions from the North: From Hwy 101 South to Santa Rosa, exit at Hwy 12 and stay to the left (east toward Sonoma). Cross over Hwy 101. Take the South E Street/Downtown exit to the fairgrounds.

Directions from the South: From Hwy 101 North to Santa Rosa, exit at Hwy 12 east toward Sonoma. Take the South E Street/Downtown exit to the fairgrounds.

To pre-register, fill out this form and send it with your check **made payable to Redwood Country Cloggers** to:
Michele Hill, P. O. Box 15315, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Pre-Registration deadline is **October 13**. Prices will be **\$5 higher** at the door!

Name: _____
(please list additional dancer names on the back)

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Adult Admission:

___ NCCA members @ \$20.00 = ____
___ Non-members @ \$24.00 = ____

Child Admission: (12 & under)

___ NCCA members @ \$10.00 = ____
___ Non-members @ \$12.00 = ____

Dinner: (pre-registration only)

___ Dinners @ \$10.00 = ____

Syllabus: (pre-registration only)

___ Syllabus @ \$4 = ____

Total: \$ _____

DIRECTORY

This is a complimentary list of instructors, vendors, and other clogging resources. The instructors are organized by state then name. Clubs are listed under each instructor. If you plan to visit a club, be sure to contact the instructor to confirm meeting dates and times. For additions or changes to this list, contact the editor at lois.elling@pacbell.net. CCI = Certified Clogging Instructor

ARIZONA

Janice Lee

9351 E 28th St #192
Yuma, AZ 85365
928-342-2208
775-750-5510
NVGirl1@msn.com

CALIFORNIA

Kathy Cinowalt

3965 E. Highway 41
Templeton, CA 93465
(805) 466-3502
San Luis County Cloggers

Sarah Dwight-Gilroy

(650) 966-8351
loudfeetdancer@gmail.com
Mussell Rock Cloggers
Silicon Valley Stompers

Lois Elling

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San Leandro, CA 94578
(510) 278-8621
lois.elling@pacbell.net
Blossom Hill Cloggers
Diablo Mountain Cloggers
Clogging Express

Ian Enriquez

252 Clinton Park
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 626-2274
ian@barbarycoast.org
Barbary Coast Cloggers

Pat Gosh, CCI

1732 Cresmont Dr.
Bakersfield, CA 93306
(661) 872-3365(H)/
(661) 323-5215(W)
wgosch@bak.rr.com
Centre Stage Dance & PA Studio

Janice Yee Hanzel, CCI

3800 Big Bear St.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 873-8119
sewiclog@aol.com
Lincoln Hills Cloggers
Del Webb Roseville
RockLinRose Cloggers

Michele Hill

P.O. Box 15315
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(707) 566-8048
millier_hill@yahoo.com
Redwood Country Cloggers

Michelle John-Smith

4622 Lagoon Dr.
Kelseyville, CA 95451
(707) 277-9317
musdnc@mchsi.com
Clearlake Klikkers
Konocti Klogging Kids

Althea Mason, CCI

463 Weaver Ave.
Merced, CA 95341-9503
(209) 384-2469
althea@att.net
Carousel Cloggers
Cadillac Cloggers
Rainbow Cloggers

Loni O'Donley

13220 Seann Ct.
Bakersfield, CA 93312
(661) 589-6469
clogmom1@aol.com
Black Gold Cloggers

Matt & Colleen Pearson

3502 Saddlebrook Place
Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 361-7105
azpride2@hotmail.com
Arizona Pride

Kellee Ramirez, CCI

3800 Big Bear St.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 873-8119
Kelclogs34@gmail.com
Aftershock Clogging Team

Carol Smith

10966 Pekolee Dr.
Grass Valley, CA 95949
(530) 477-5129
gonecloggin@gmail.com
Nevada County Tommyknockers

Susi Thomas

12315 Hidden Meadows Cir.
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-1789
susiclogs4u@sbcglobal.net
*Instructor—Placer School for Adults &
Sun City Lincoln Hills*
Director Thunderfoot Cloggers

Barry Welch

16291 Anaconda Rd.
Madera, CA 93638
(559) 259-9901
Doubledude@comcast.net
California Ground Pounders

Richard Willyard, CCI

930 Chianti Way
Oakley, CA 94561
(925) 783-2286
BCCRichard@att.net

NEVADA

Bonnie Larsen

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Reno, NV 89506
775-972-0583
madameg@charter.net
Clog Reno

DIRECTORY

OREGON

Jan McDonald, CCI

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Madras, OR 97741
(541) 475-9466 or
(541) 815-1278
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Loy Samples

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cloggingranny@msn.com
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Clog House Show Team

WASHINGTON

Mary Dart

4924 Spokane St NE
Lacey, WA 98516
(360) 412-8142
madclgr@comcast.net

Linda Wissenbach

8837 W. Entiat Ave
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 737-9037
silvercreekclgr@charter.net

Mike McDow

514 Americas Way #8798 Box Elder,
SD 57719-7600
503.620.8032
Mike_McDow@yahoo.com

CANADA

Barbara Guenette, CCI

2255 Bluejay Way
Nanaimo, BC
Canada V9X 1G7
250-722-2953
bguenette@shaw.ca
Bastion City Cloggers

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Tracy CA 95376
(209) 832-4798

Instruction Resources

Practice Music
Double Toes Times
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www.doubletoe.com

Steve Smith Videos
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www.stevescloggingvideos.com

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Lois Elling
(510) 278-8621
lois.elling@pacbell.net
www.Riverboat.com

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ON THE NET

NCCA-INC.COM
NCCA's Official Website!

NCCA Club Websites

Aftershock
www.aftershockcloggers.com

Barbary Coast Cloggers
www.barbarycoast.org

Blossom Hill Cloggers
www.riverboat.com/Clog/BHC.html

California Ground Pounders
www.cagroundpounders.org

Diablo Mountain Cloggers
www.riverboat.com/Clog/DiabloMtn-Cloggers.html

Senior Stompers
webpages.charter.net/clogreno/

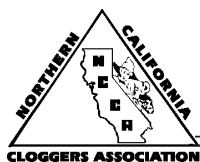
Clogging Outside of California

National Clogging Organization
www.clog.org

Clogdancing.Com
www.clogdancing.com

Northwest Clogging Association
www.nwcloggers.com

Southern California Clogging Assn.
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On the web at www.ncca-inc.com

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Please print clearly!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

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☐ Check if there are additional family members and list on back.

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I would like to receive my Clog-A-Gram:

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Year started clogging: _____ Are you an instructor? _____

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Total Enclosed: _____ Rec'd by: _____ 7/18

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http://ncca-inc.com/Step_Dictionary.html

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*CD will be mailed first class. Please contact us if ordering multiple items or overseas. Allow 2 weeks for regular shipping and 4 days for Priority.



Upcoming Events

2018 in California

- Aug. 24–26** **SCCA SoCAL Shindig**, La Mirada, CA. Southern California's annual convention in a new location. Go to SoCalCloggers.org for more information.
- Aug. 31–Sep. 1** **Earn Your Tape Clogging Weekend**, presented by Todd Harry at Plymouth Congregational Church, Seattle, WA. For more information, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earn-your-tape-clogging-weekend-tickets-47367004987>
- Sep. 15** **Clogging Jamboree**, Nevada City, CA. Clogging workshops, exhibition show, and dance. See **page 18**.
- Oct. 27** **Late Harvest Stomp**, Santa Rosa, CA. See **page 19**.

2018 Other Noteworthy Events

- Sep. 21 & 22** **NWCA (Northwest Clogging Association)**, Vancouver, WA. Check www.nwcloggers.com for updates.
- Nov. 3 & 4** **Sealion Stomp**, Nanoose, British Columbia, Canada. Details: Barb Guenette, bguenette@shaw.ca.
- Nov. 21–24** **C.L.O.G. National Clogging Convention**, Atlanta, GA. Visit www.clog.org for more information.

2019 Events

- Jan.** **Doug Chin Clogging Classic** and NCCA Quarterly, hosted by Aftershock Cloggers. Orangevale, CA. Date tbd. Contact Kellee Ramirez at kelclogs34@gmail.com or check ncca-inc.com.
- Feb. 15–16** **ClogDown** workshop and dance featuring Eric Bice, Vancouver, WA. Contact Mike McDow at Mike_McDow@yahoo.com.
- Mar. 9** **March Madness** hosted by Diablo Mountain Cloggers. Contact Lois Elling at Lois.Elling@pacbell.net or check ncca-inc.com.
- April** **36th Annual NCCA Convention**. Watch ncca-inc.com for details.

Watch www.ncca-inc.com for updates!