
NWCA News

Message from our President

Greetings, NWCA Members!

It's hard to believe that we are already in March! I hope you are having a great start to 2026.

I want to thank all of you who came to our NWCA Stamp Out Winter workshop in Centralia. It was great seeing you dancing those winter blues away. It's always fun catching up with everyone, especially after a long winter dry spell!

We had quite the hiccup just a week before the workshop. We learned that the hall we had rented was double-booked. But every board and chair member scrambled lightning-fast to find a new hall, made important decisions, got the word out to all, and ensured everything was in place so we could still have our workshop. I think some of you were surprised by our swanky venue this year: the Centralia Square Annex, a fully restored lovely old building with magnificent chandeliers lighting a beautiful ballroom.

I would also like to give a big thank you to our NWCA instructors who made the day extra special with the fun routines they taught!



Always know that the Northwest Clogging Association is here for YOU... our clogging members, groups, and clubs. Please let us know if there is anything that we can help you with. Happy clogging!

Tracy Turner

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Did we Stamp Out Winter, or what?

This year's Stamp Out Winter close call proved that nothing can stand in the way of determined cloggers. Yes, the double-booking issue came up at almost the last minute, but NWCA board members jumped in and saved the day. The event was not just salvaged but relocated to a "wowers" level facility. Anyone for post-clogging cigars and a glass of good Port? (Kidding, of course...)



Instructor Profile

Taj Alex



I first saw clogging in 1981 at the National Square Dance convention in Seattle and fell in love! I begged Mom for shiny, noisy "Dorothy" shoes, but then I couldn't find a club. Fast forward a couple of decades, and we found ourselves as Wagonmaster at Circle 8 Ranch, and they had clogging! By then my old shoes were disintegrating, but someone has a used pair to sell me. When I wasn't taking money, cleaning, or parking rigs, I was in the back of the hall, learning. For several years after that, I was lucky enough to clog every summer to a slew of great staff until we moved to Chicago and then on to Birmingham AL, where I joined an actual clogging group, Clog Wild Cloggers, with **Kay Trimm** teaching. For the first time since I was a teenager, I was finally dancing regularly. Clog Wild is an exhibition club - short skirts, petticoats, white shoes, and every dance memorized and fast. When we taped "Thriller" for a TV show audition, I was buried in the back and was just fine with that.

When we moved back home to Kent WA in 2017, I heard there had been a clogging club at Meridian Grange, but it had closed. During that first summer at Circle 8, **Ruth Matulka**, a clogger from Cle Elum WA, gave me some music and cue sheets. From there, my plan took shape: My husband, a caller, set me up with a music program on an old computer. His mom used to teach round dancing and gave me an amplifier and CD player. I ordered a \$30 mic from Amazon, and I was set.

Every Saturday, or more often, **Sandy Hammersberg** and anyone else who was around would patiently let me cue. We also danced to the CDs I'd collected from previous Circle 8 workshops. In June 2023, some friends who had danced with **Sher Francis** asked if we could start our own club, with me teaching and cueing. Our first class was three months later. Talk about imposter syndrome! My sister-in-law joined that first class reluctantly; three years later, she's there every week and is the one who always says, "Full speed this time!" Her younger daughter dances with us now, too, and her older daughter clogs with **Todd Harry**.

So many wonderful people! With **Diane Jacobsen** as my mentor, I felt like heaven sent me an angel. For the last two years, **Mary Dart** has encouraged me to teach and cue at the Washington State Square Dance Convention, and Todd, **Tracy Turner**, and **Karen Miller** have helped me host, teach, and cue at other workshops. My biggest supporter is my husband, **Rod** who gets out and dances when his knee isn't bothering him.

I still have a lot to learn. And I'll always use a cue sheet, but I'm so blessed to be able to not only make a lot of noise with my own shiny shoes, but I get to help others do it, too!

What does a new instructor need?

Let's say you are an instructor who has never taught at a workshop. What sort of information do you need?

I'm also asking seasoned instructors to think back to the first time you taught at a workshop. (For some of us, that is a long way back!) Can you remember a few of the things it would have been helpful to have, or to know?

At Sasquatch Stomp in 2025, we had one instructor who was new to workshop teaches and had lots of questions for me that I had not taken into consideration. Things like:

Do I need to bring my own sound equipment?

Should I bring my own mic?

Do I supply my own music?

All good questions.

I have been trying to think of things that could be given to these instructors when they are invited to teach, not only at Sasquatch Stomp, but also at a workshop in another area. If I look at the score sheet for the CCI candidates who are doing their practical test (teaching a workshop routine), there are questions such as: "Is the instructor ready on time?" and "Is the instructor dressed appropriately?"

But there are additional important things, such as getting the cue sheet submitted by the deadline date, replying within the required time limits, and maybe other points you can think of.

If you are a new clogging instructor, can you help me out with information that might help you with your first workshop teach? If you have done workshop teaches before, what information do you think a new instructor would need?

Ideally, I'd like to come up with a guide that could be given to instructors prior to the workshop so they are prepared completely for the teach. Any help or suggestions would be very much appreciated.

You can email me at bguenette@shaw.ca

I thank you in advance for your help.

Barb Guenette
Bastion City Cloggers

Keep on keeping on - Tanglefoot Cloggers



We all know the feeling: We go to class every week, and nothing changes. Tanglefoot has kept the nine dancers we have had for a few years. (A big thank you to them for always showing up and supporting the club.) At a beginner class, two new people showed up – and then nothing. What can we do to get more beginners? Line dancing is booming. Why not clogging?

December found us at my house for our annual potluck dinner, after which we took our usual break through the first of the year. In January, we started work on two tricky dances, and now we're enjoying them – thank you, **Kelsey Fairbanks** and **Diane Jacobsen** for pushing us! At the end of the month, some of us headed to Albany, OR for the Mid-Winter Festival to learn from featured teacher **Andrew Perry** from Ohio. What fun he is!

In February one of our own, **Kristin O'Brien**, took over and taught our high intermediate class. It was a different experience for me to be on the floor learning and not on the stage teaching. Thank you, Kristen!

Stamp Out Winter was a lot of fun with eight of us dancing in Centralia WA to NWCA instructors. Thanks to **Tracy Turner, Karen Miller, Kristen Mulvihill, Diane Jacobsen** (and me!) for the great dances. Dancing under chandeliers was a new one. Karen, thanks for adding the lesson with fans to your dance.

The last Monday of each month we meet for pizza or salad before we have our monthly dance night. No teaching, just dancing, all levels. It gives us all time to socialize.

Like I said: same, same. We'll see you again soon on the dance floor, ideally in Everett at March Madness.

Mary Dart
Tanglefoot Cloggers

Whidbey Island Cloggers - back in action!

After a several-month hiatus, the Whidbey Island Cloggers are back on the dance floor at The Center in Oak Harbor, WA. Hooray!!! (Check The Center activity program for days/times.)

While we have a small number of beginners, I hope to see more join us as we go forward. Those who have had some prior clogging experience needed only to review some “muscle memory” basics* to get started.

I asked those who decided to return, “Why do you like clogging?” The responses were varied:

“I love to dance to high energy music!” Or, “I like the camaraderie and the friendships.” Or, “I enjoy the exercise.” Or, “It helps my brain to learn new steps.”

For me, it was all of the above!

FYI: Below are some of the basic and extended basic steps we reviewed to start, again:

BASIC - TRIPLE - FANCY DBL - ROCKING CHAIR - DBL - BASIC/DBL & A KICK STOP DOUBLE - LONG CHARLESTON - TOE TAPPER - PUSH OFF - STOMP DOUBLE

Extended Basic Steps:

SAMANTHA - HIGH HORSE - CRAZY STEP - CLOGOVER VINE -VINE L/R - COWBOY

Cyndy Jensen
Whidbey Island Cloggers

Post Script:

A word about this issue

Until recently, your NWCA newsletter has been produced using a program called “MailChimp,” a friendly and casual program that incorporated text, images, and a mailing list - free of charge! Late last year, however, the NWCA board learned the free version of MailChimp would be going away. After exploring a couple of free options, we chose Canva - even more versatile with wonderful design features. Stay tuned as we hone our skills and incorporate more of those features with each issue.

A reminder:A newsletter is only as robust as its content. Our newsletter’s content comes largely from **you**, our amazing cloggers. Please flood us with tidbits and photos from your classes and special events. And let us know what you think of the new format. Email us at NWCloggers@gmail.com.

We can’t wait to hear from you!

Cheers,

Liz Wickham
Newsletter Editor

Put this event on your calendar!

This issue's very abbreviated "upcoming event" section will be expanded to its normal, complete length in the future. In the meantime, please make a note of the Mill Town Cloggers' "March Madness" event, happening Saturday, March 14. Mark your calendars - it's right around the corner.

As always, you'll find a complete list of upcoming clogging events in the Pacific Northwest and Canada at our website, <https://nwcloggers.com/upcoming-events/>

MARCH MADNESS

Mill Town Cloggers invite you to
Dance With Us

**Easy to
Intermediate**
Workshop
With Local Instructors

**Saturday March 14, 2026
9:00 am to 5:00 pm**



Cost: \$15.00
\$10.00 for

Carl Gipson Center members



3025 Lombard
Everett WA 98201

Free parking is available in spaces 1-55
under the building, which is accessible from
Broadway Ave. You can also park on the
street.

We will take a lunch break.
Bring your lunch.

Contact: Karen Miller 425-879-4549
milltowncloggers@gmail.com

Thank you for reading!