

# The Crab Mallet

February, 2000

Newsletter Vol. 2

## CIVILIZATION SURVIVES NEW YEAR'S EVE BALTIMORE CLUB REALIZES IT ACTUALLY HAS TO RUN CONVENTION AFTER ALL

Dear Readers,

Yes, here is the latest installment of the Official Newsletter of the Crack the Crab 2000 Convention. Now we know what you're probably thinking: Lacking the thrill of the first, spanking-new edition, but without the pertinent details of the third & oh-so-close-to-Convention version.

I mean, whoever pays attention to the middle episode in any given trilogy? It's just the filler between the beginning and dramatic conclusion. When Star Wars was re-released, who *actually* raced down to the see "The Empire Strikes Back"?

[Hey you, the guy in Jedi outfit who saw the movie 37 times. Thank you for sharing, but now please sit down so the rest of us can finish our conversation, 'kay?]

Well you better pay attention this time around, as this little gem is packed full of things you want to consider as you prepare for dancing in Baltimore. Care to know how many folks are registered so far? Are there still spaces available on the spectacular Bay Lady Cruise or the infamous Fun Badge Tour? How does Lois Carmen Denominator manage to look so worldly yet youthful? We're not going to touch that last question with a ten foot long mascara brush, but the answers to the others and so many more rest between these pages—but only if you read the darned thing from cover to cover! We've even kept it brief in case you imagine that you have better things to do. So there. Hon.

Sincerely,

*Claude & Claudette Crab*

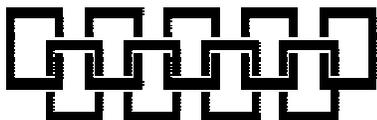
Your Convention Hosts

### DID YOU KNOW?

The founding and first meeting of the American Psychiatric Association was in Baltimore!



### INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS®



June 30 - July 3, 2000

## THIS AIN'T NO BEAUTY CONTEST

Crack the Crab is almost proud to present the following crack staff callers:

Ray "Is Ice Hockey A Talent?" Brendzy  
Mike "Mr. Congeniality" Desisto  
Pete "My Wife is Prettier" Diven  
Todd "Flaming Batons" Felleggy  
Betsy "Ms. NJ Turnpike" Gotta  
Dayle "Mr. Suburban Maryland" Hodge  
Mike "No Runner Up Here" Jacobs  
Kris "Smile for the Camera" Jensen  
Linda "High Heels? No Way!" Kendall  
Ben "Swim Suit Competition" Rubright  
Anne "Ms. Pacific Coast" Uebelacker  
Paul "Let Me at Those Judges" Waters

## JUST THE FACTS

Any questions? Any rumors or gossip you'd care to spread around? You can always reach a dependable CTC staff person at the following contact information:

### Website:

[www.iagsdc.org/crackthecrab/](http://www.iagsdc.org/crackthecrab/)

### Electronic Mail:

[ctcin2000@iagsdc.org](mailto:ctcin2000@iagsdc.org)

### Telephone:

(410) 833-2326

### Fee Schedules and Deadlines:

\$160 July 7, 1999 through  
June 23, 2000

\$175 After June 23, 2000 and at  
Crack the Crab in 2000

The fee for the Fun Badge Tour is an additional \$35. Limited seating is available for the Fun Badge Tour so sign up soon!

The fee for the Bay Lady Fourth of July Fireworks Cruise is \$75, which also has limited seating and filling up fast.

The Non-Dancer rate is \$80, which includes the banquet, brunch and Honky Tonk Queen Contest.

# The Crab Mallet

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN: CTC STAFF ANNOUNCE SCHEDULE

Please note this schedule is tentative!

**Tuesday, June 27 -  
Friday, June 30, 2000**

- Optional Tours and  
Pre-Convention Events

**Friday, June 30, 2000**

- Trail's End Dance, 7pm -  
Hyatt Regency

**Saturday, July 1, 2000**

- Opening Ceremonies
- Grand March
- Dancing at All Levels
- IAGSDC Delegates Meeting
- GCA Meeting
- Club Photos
- Honky Tonk Queen Contest -  
Hyatt Regency

**Sunday, July 2, 2000**

- Dancing at All Levels
- Convention Banquet -  
Hyatt Regency

**Monday, July 3, 2000**

- Dancing at All Levels
- IAGSDC General Meeting  
and Brunch
- Convention Planning Meeting
- Closing Ceremony & Memorial Tip
- Country/Western Dance

**Tuesday, July 4, 2000**

- Fun Badge Tour!
- Bay Lady Cruise

**Wednesday, July 5, 2000**

- Optional Tours & Post-Convention  
Events

*Specialty Tips: To be announced*

## "IF ONLY I COULD BE A QUEEN" WITH A LOTS OF LUCK & VIRTUALLY NO SKILLS, YOU CAN!

Imagine a grand Hollywood drama onstage: Think of the lights shining down on beautiful, talented starlettes wearing their glamorous outfits. A hostess to professionally dazzle the audience with her wit, with choreography down to the split second. Photographers and thousands of adoring fans line the stage.

Okay, now picture it *without* any sort of budget. Yes, much cheaper would be the right words. Tawdry, even. But I digress. Now about those starlettes. Strip away any pretense of talent above the "chewing gum & walking at the same time category". On second thought, even that's probably giving them too much credit.

As for those designer outfits, think Wal-Mart & JC Penny rejects. Those shoes? Whoever heard of normal "women" wearing size 15 pumps? Not to mention that these objects of attention all seem to have a five o'clock shadow (or more) on their faces as they sweat under those blinding lights.

Remember that clever hostess? I'll give you a hint: Old Queen, Old Queen! Next thing you know, she'll be trying to entertain the audience with hand puppets. Or clogging. Or dancing in her finest leather tutu. Be afraid, be very afraid.

And you can kiss the choreography goodbye.

Yes folks, we're talking about the Honky Tonk Queen Contest. Starting from humble origins in Conventions of the distant past, and sinking further every year, watch with amazement as a gaggle of would-be Queens scratch and claw their way to the coveted Golden Boot Award. Or better yet, sign up as a contestant! Bring along an escort to illustrate how important you truly are. Just make sure that he/she/they aren't more attractive or talented than you are or they might wind up stealing the show. Of course we know Dear, that would never happen to *you*, right?

Reigning Queen Muriel has been keeping information regarding this year's extravaganza tightly under wraps, but we can divulge the following information. Muriel will return from the Far, Far East to grace us with her presence. She will be helped by several bitter, oops, "experienced" former Honky Tonk Queens. The event will be held in a brightly lighted, pillar-free room at 11:00pm on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. We will announce further details on scheduling and the [low] expectations for candidates as soon as the CTC staff learn about them. Stay tuned!

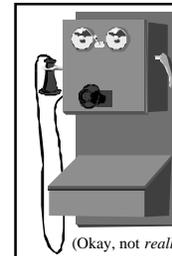
## FROM POINT A TO POINT B WITH EASE!

Don't forget to use the Official Travel Agency of CTC2000 to make your trip plans, namely:

Charles Center Travel  
Fred Elburn, President  
1-800-999-TRAV or 410-962-1011  
Fred@CharlesCenterTravel.com

Charles Center Travel is a gay-owned and operated business with a staff of professional travel consultants. The entire agency is available to provide you with the information needed for

travel arrangements which match your preferences and budget. *Ask about ticket discounts on our Official Airlines (USAirways, United & Southwest Airlines.) and excursions in the Baltimore - Washington D.C. area!*



### MORE BALTIMORE TRIVIA:

The first commercial use of a telegraph was in Charm City!

(Okay, not really a picture of a telegraph--but close!)

# The Crab Mallet

## WHERE TO PUT YOUR LUGGAGE & REST FROM ALL THAT DANCING

If you are planning on attending CTC2000, you might want to consider exactly where you're going to putting up those tired feet of yours at the end of the day (or later). Quickly too, as the best rooms at both of our official hotels—the Hyatt Regency and the Sheraton Inner Harbor—are going fast!

While both hotels offer fine rooms and amenities, the CTC staff encourages all dancers to attempt to register at the **Hyatt Regency** first; only after we have completely utilized our room block at the Hyatt (i.e., the hotel runs out of rooms) should dancers reserve space at the Sheraton.

The Hyatt and Sheraton are each within a short walk of the Convention Center, the site for Mainstream through Challenge-1 level dancing; C2 through C4 will take place at the Hyatt Regency. The vendors hall will also be located at the Hyatt Regency.

Room Rates are as follows:

Room	Hyatt	Sheraton
Single/Double	\$129	\$129
Triple	\$144	\$144
Quad	\$159	\$159
Club Level	+\$25/night	+\$30/night
Junior Suite/ 1 Bedroom:		
Harbor View	\$350	\$450
City View	\$300	\$450
Junior Suite/ 2 Bedroom:		
Harbor View	\$450	\$550
City View	\$400	\$550
Hospitality Suite, 1bdm:		
Harbor View	\$500	\$475
City View	\$450	\$475
Hospitality Suite, 2bdm:		
Harbor View	\$600	\$575
City View	\$550	\$575

Hyatt Regency Baltimore:  
410-528-1234  
[www.hyatt.com/pages/b/bwirba.html](http://www.hyatt.com/pages/b/bwirba.html)

Sheraton Inner Harbor  
410-962-8300  
[www.sheraton.com/destinations/properties/hr\\_197.html](http://www.sheraton.com/destinations/properties/hr_197.html)



Do you know what the BVD stands for in the popular underwear brand?



Answer: **Baltimore Ventilated Drawers!**

## GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN

Getting to Crack the Crab should be a relatively easy experience for those who have to travel any distance. If you're "winging it" in, the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) is the airport of choice. There are direct flights (including Air Canada) from most major markets and many of those not-quite-so-major-markets both in the U.S. and Canada. The city's recently extended light rail system provides service directly to and from the downtown area with a stop directly in front of the convention center itself (and that's one long block from "hotel central").

If you're being "railroaded" to the convention, it's Amtrak's Direct Service on the Atlantic coast's north-south corridor including the "Montrealer" out of... well, you guessed it. From Baltimore's Penn Station it's a short taxi ride (about \$5) to the Inner Harbor area, the Convention Center and the host hotel sites.

Being "driven crazy" for the convention? Then it's I-95 to I-695 to either I-83 or I-395 and into the downtown area. Parking at the hotels at this time should run around \$15 per day. For those of you who may wish to rent a vehicle, all the national rental companies are available. Check with our travel agent (listed on the previous page) for specials and other details.

For our friends from D.C. who really don't want to drive up and pay for parking, plan on taking the MARC rail service into the city and staying at the hotels. Camden Station is at the other end of a sixty-minute ride from Union Station and that puts you just across the street from the Convention Center and a short walk away from the Hyatt and Sheraton Inner Harbor locations.

Baltimore City has bus, subway, and light rail systems that operate for a fare of \$1.35 per one-way trip, but also has an all-day pass for \$3 that covers unlimited travel on the entire system. Week-long passes are available at slightly better rates.

If you're being "bussed in," Greyhound has a terminal in the central downtown area just a few blocks or a short taxi or bus ride from the hotbed of convention activity.

Handy Travel Numbers:

Charles Center Travel 1-800-999-TRAV	US Airways 1-800-943-5436
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Baltimore-Washington Airport (BWI) (410) 589-7663	United Airlines 1-800-241-6522
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Amtrak 1-800-USA-RAIL	Southwest Airlines 1-800-435-9792
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# The Crab Mallet

## BALTIMORE UNDER SIEGE: BRITISH PROCLAIM "THIS CITY IS TOAST"

*Dear Readers, when we last saw Baltimore, the Anglo-American War of 1812 raged on, and our fair city was threatened with destruction at British hands.\**

The British, however, were unable to make this promise good. After burning Washington, DC. in the summer of 1814, they attacked Baltimore by land and sea. Thanks to the guns and heroism at Fort McHenry and North Point, Baltimore held off the British. Francis Scott Key's poetic commemoration of the fort's bombardment was later set to music to become America's national anthem.

The war ended early in 1815, having achieved little beyond ending British attempts to regulate American commerce. For Baltimoreans, however, that was enough. They resumed their vigorous foreign trade, especially in flour. By 1825, there were some 60 flour mills within a few miles of center city, as Baltimore became the second largest municipality in the United States. Her leading citizens, however, could see the clouds on the horizon.

The advancement of the American frontier, and the ongoing economic and social changes of the port's leading trade countries, South America and the Caribbean, threatened Baltimore's prosperity. In addition, other American ports were already making efforts to keep in touch with the West.

Philadelphia was organizing what would become the Pennsylvania Railroad, and even smaller cities like Richmond and Charleston were reaching westward. The state of Maryland concentrated its efforts on completing the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, designed to link the Potomac and Ohio River Valleys, but the city of Baltimore supported an overland link in the form of the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad.

Baltimore was infrequently touched by military operations, but the end of the Civil War found it suffering nearly as much as many of the cities of the former Confederacy. The collapse of the South's economy naturally affected one of its leading ports of entry, as did the loss of many vessels during the war. The city gradually recovered, however, helped by an influx of displaced Southerners, as well as by the tremendous amount of grain which the B&O trains brought to port from the Middle West.

The canning industry also became important in Baltimore, as the riches of the Chesapeake Bay began, for the first time, to be preserved and shipped to other parts of the country. Older industries, such as shipbuilding and transportation, remained industrially strong, and the city continued as an active port of entry for European immigrants and rural residents from the upper South.

In 1904, however, the city's progress suffered a rude setback when a fire consumed most of its business district, including a number of historic structures. The devastated area was rapidly rebuilt, and Baltimore prospered through the First World War and into the 1920s. The Depression, however, was too great an obstacle for local initiative to overcome. Economic distress and controls imposed during World War II retarded physical development in the city. After the war, Baltimore's economy began to thrive once again, as people spent heavily on consumer goods. As their standard of living improved, city residents were attracted to new housing developments beyond Baltimore's borders, and many people left. The city, which had grown in population every year since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, began to shrink as adjacent counties experienced tremendous growth.

*Having escaped peril once, how could Baltimore survive these new challenges? How did the city thrive again despite adversity? What will the Editors do when we run out of material? Find out in the next newsletter!*

## SURVEY SAYS: STAND UP & BE COUNTED!

So you've made it this far. As your reward, here is a sampling of registration totals for you to ponder over. Enjoy!

### Total Registrations for CTC2000:

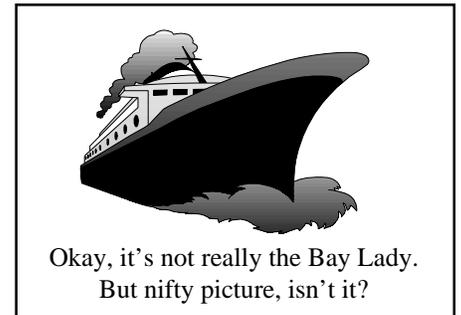
☯ 592 From the U.S., Canada, Japan & Australia

### Fun Badge Tour:

☯ 242 to dance throughout B'more

### Bay Lady Registrations

☯ 356 Going Cruising so far!



Crack the Crab Newsletter #2  
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All writing, layout & scrounging for graphics can be blamed on the three martini lunch we had while pretending to work on this thing (which our Treasurer refused to pay for out of petty cash, the cheap s.o.b.), but you can send any comments or suggestions for the next issue to Claude Crab at [ctcin2000@iagsdc.org](mailto:ctcin2000@iagsdc.org), or through the Convention PO Box. Hon.

\*Courtesy of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association