

# The Crab Mallet

October, 1999

Newsletter Vol. 1

## Baltimore Proudly Presents Crack the Crab 2000!

Greetings from the staff of CTC, the IAGSDC Convention for the new millennium, hosted in the "Charm City" of Baltimore.

As with any worthy extravaganza, CTC has scheduled a variety of events to make your trip a memorable one: A fabulous banquet & brunch, a Country - Western Dance, the infamous Honky Tonk Queen contest, an optional cruise on the city harbor...and oh yes, dancing too!

No doubt you have many questions on your mind. What is the schedule of events? Where will the dancing take place? How do I ship three steamer trunks full of outfits and accessories to my hotel? Fear not Dear Readers, and let this and future newsletters be your guide.

Sincerely,

*Claude & Claudette Crab*

Your Convention Hosts

## Operators are Standing By

Need to contact us?  
Here's the scoop:

### Website:

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

### Electronic Mail:

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

### Telephone:

(410) 833 - 2326



June 30 - July 3, 2000

## The Grand Hotel Scheme Revealed!

Dancers attending Crack the Crab will want to make their reservations in one of two hotels: The Hyatt Regency Baltimore, or the Sheraton Inner Harbor. Both hotels are accepting reservations at this time -- get your room with an Inner Harbor or City Skyline view while you can!

For those fussy types who like to know a little about the sleeping arrangements before they arrive, here's a little more information on our host hotels:

Both hotels are located right in the heart of Baltimore's Inner Harbor, a vibrant area full of shops, restaurants and nightclubs. Other local sights include the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, the *fabulous* shopping plaza known as the Gallery, and Oriole Park at Camden Yards where the city's fans come to watch some baseball now and then. Oh yes, the Baltimore Convention Center where much of the dancing will take place is located here too.

Dancers can lounge around sipping coffee (or the occasional cocktail) in the Hyatt's open lobby and atrium. Those allergic to show tunes beware: There is a piano in here as well. In either hotel dancers can also enjoy rooftop dining, a sauna, pool, jacuzzi, tennis courts and the Harbor Nautilus Health Club.

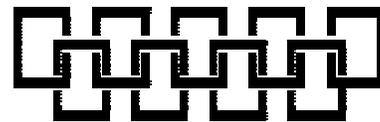
For more information on the hotels, you can contact the following:

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)

A chart with room pricing is located on the last page of this newsletter. You must request the Crab the Crab in 2000 package to receive the discounted rates!

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



OF GAY SQUARE DANCE CLUBS\*

## Fee Schedules & Deadlines

\$160	July 7, 1999 through June 23, 2000
\$175	After June 23, 2000 and at Crack the Crab in 2000

Your registration fee includes your convention pin, all dancing, Saturday banquet and Sunday Brunch.

The fee for the Fun Badge Tour is an additional \$35. Limited seating is available for the Fun Badge Tour.

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

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

Remember to wear your pin, which will serve as admission to any other Convention Package Event.

# The Crab Mallet

“All the Gossip that’s Fit to Print!”

## Presumed Armed & Dangerous: The Staff Callers

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

Saundra “Sandie” Bryant  
Mike “No-List” Desisto  
Pete “Trust Your Caller” Diven  
Todd “The DJ” Fellegy  
Betsy “GottaDance” Gotta  
Dayle “Fish in a Bowl” Hodge  
Mike “Versatility” Jacobs  
Kris “Desert Diamond” Jensen  
Linda “Choreo Corner” Kendall  
Ben “Wind in Your Face” Rubright  
Anne “The Canadian” Uebelacker  
Paul “Needs No Introduction” Waters

## Hey Hon, What’s Your Name?

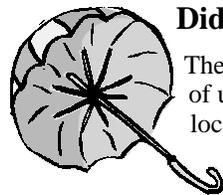
By Just Ett, Hon!

It is widely known that the IAGSDC™ Conventions, and even some club fly-ins, are named after square dance calls. Take, for example, Chesapeake Squares’ own special “Pass the Ocean, Hon!” fly-in. The name comes from the mainstream call “pass the ocean” and also has a regional reference in invoking “hon” in the name, thus introducing non-“Bawlmer” [i.e., Baltimore] natives to our regional dialect. This is not uncommon; many Convention and fly-in names are a combination of both a square dance call and something regionally representative.

Some folks wonder how we arrived at the name of the Convention for the year 2000, the 17<sup>th</sup> annual IAGSDC™ Convention hosted by Baltimore’s own Chesapeake Squares. Anyone native to the area knows that the best crabs in the world are the famous Maryland blue crabs from the Chesapeake Bay, and so when we had a contest to decide the winning name of the Convention, “crack the Crab” won mallets down! The name summons images of delicious crabs being eaten in our favorite local restaurants while paying tribute to two square dance calls from the past.

According to Bursleson’s Dictionary, there were two calls, “crack the wave” and “crack the whip” that were defined as legitimate square dance calls. Thus the name of our Convention not only combines cracking open Maryland’s famous blue crabs for a tasty treat, but also a reference to square dance calls on the book but not currently in use.

So next time you go to Convention or a fly-in, consider the name of the event. More than likely, it has to do with some square dance call and/or some regional reference to the hosting club. Many imaginative names have been used over the years, and I look forward to many more in the coming years!



## Did You Know?

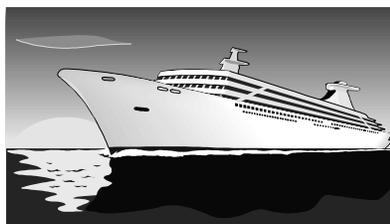
The first manufacturer of umbrellas was located in Baltimore?

## Go Cruising with the Lady

No, we’re not talking about Kirk Hurley (rumor has it Kirks’s no Lady, anyway).

Instead, join us for an eventful Independence Day aboard the *Bay Lady*! For four hours we will cruise around the Inner Harbor in comfort with two fully enclosed climate controlled decks and an open air deck perfect for watching the sunset -- and fireworks!

You will enjoy a sumptuous dinner buffet (vegetarian meals are an option), including soft drinks, wine and beer. A cash bar is also available.



(Artist’s rendition -- Not really the Bay Lady)

And after you’ve dined on some of Baltimore’s finest fare, dancing awaits you! We’ve scheduled square dancing, two-stepping and line dancing. The dashing Bill Eyler will be our caller for the evening.

Yet more fun: Gaze in amazement at the best fireworks display on the East Coast from the best possible location -- right out on the harbor!

The fee is \$75 per person, which includes dancing and dinner. The *Bay Lady* can accommodate up to 500 people, so space is limited. Reservations are held on a first-come, first-served basis. So make sure to fill out your reservation form (in the center of your newsletter, Hon) and send it in immediately. A confirmation letter will be sent to confirm your registration.

*Bay Lady tickets will be available for pick up at Convention sign-in.*

No Hon, there aren’t any icebergs in the Inner Harbor in July! But please contact us if you have any other questions.

## Traveling the World in Style

The official travel agency of Crack the Crab in 2000 is none other than:

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

Open since May of 1980, 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: USAir, United & Southwest Airlines.*

## Tentative Tours & Excursions:

- \*New York City (2 day, 1 night)
- \*Rehoboth Beach, DE (2 day, 1 night)
- \*One Day Washington DC Tour
- \*One Day Annapolis, MD Tour
- \*Various Local & Baltimore Area Tours

# The Crab Mallet

"Serving All Your News Needs Since This Morning"

## Another Baltimore First



Baltimore was the site of the first railroad in the United States!

## On Sale Now!

What better way to show you care than by doing a little shopping? There are several ways to stimulate local economy without emptying your pockets:

*T-Shirts!* Yes, these lovely shirts were designed in loving detail by our very own CTC board members & groupies. Each shirt comes in festive white or stylish black, and will be sure to complement any wardrobe. At least it doesn't take up much space in your suitcase.

T-shirts are yours for a limited time only, at the bargain price of \$17. Please specify color and size when ordering by mail, or purchase at Convention itself!

*Tickets to Convention or Bay Lady Cruises!* These handy little gems make great stocking stuffers for loved ones, and with the holidays just around the corner....

Alternatively, here's a Handy Hint from Helen Bedd: Purchase one (or more!) of these tickets for a club raffle. That way not only will a fellow square dancer receive entry to a wonderful event at the price of a raffle entry, but your club can raise funds too! Everybody wins--how can you beat that?

*Program Book Ads!* For the truly extroverted. A grand way to show off your club and its upcoming events. Or perhaps you have a more personal message to get across, such as advertising your own business or to some sweet words for the special someone? Over a thousand readers will glance at the Convention program book's pages--can you afford to miss it?

## Our Hidden Agenda: Expose on Special Events!

*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 Ceremonies and Memorial Tip
- ☆ Country/Western Dance

**Tuesday, July 4, 2000**

- ☆ Fun Badge Tour!
- ☆ Bay Lady Cruise

**Wednesday, July 5, 2000**

- ☆ Optional Tours and Post-Convention Events

*Specialty Tips: To be announced*

## Just When You Thought It Was Safe to Go on the Fun Badge Tour....

Hosting a Convention represents a daunting amount of work for any square dance club. Rising to meet the challenge this represents are a variety of committees. Most of these committees demonstrate dedication, efficiency and a noble spirit as they work to bring you serenity through square dancing.

The Fun Badge Tour Gang, however, had other ideas in mind....

Instead, revel with your friends in getting up for an early morning departure from the Hyatt (Sorry, requests from former Honky Tonk Queens to start the Tour at "the crack of noon" were denied).

After boarding a bus whose name aptly matches its personality, we'll whisk you around our fair Charm City. Of course we'll have escorts to point out the sights along the way; these semi-trained professionals were chosen solely on merit, ability to point and a vigorous swimsuit competition.

Instead, actual knowledge of the area will be provided by several "colorful" natives. At least once we've made the translation from the regional dialect into something vaguely resembling English.

But the best part comes when we let you off the buses: Square dancing at locations both historical and hysterical, scattered throughout the city. Which sites, you wonder? That's a surprise, as is the identity of our Mystery Caller!

But be sure to sign up for this simply divine event, and soon -- space is currently limited to 282 people! After that, we'll keep a waiting list for those who want in on the festivities.

The Fun Badge Tour is not included in your registration fee; it costs an extra \$35, which includes your seat on the bus of your choosing, dangles, snacks, refreshments and maybe a bonus prize....

# The Crab Mallet

## "You Want Fries With That, Hon?"

### Charm City History: Learn About Baltimore

Baltimore, the 12th largest city in the United States, is named "Charm City" for its residents well-established concern for the quality of life. Long considered a southern town, Baltimore owed much of its early growth and prosperity to its desirable location. It lay farther west than any other major Atlantic port, endearing its harbor to shippers. Baltimore now ranks fifth among United States ports, with major railways and trucking lines carrying cargoes to and from docks at Canton and Curtis Bay, as well as raw materials to the city's many factories.

Baltimore's economy and cultural life, in addition to its geography, influenced its local development. Baltimoreans tend to have roots in clearly identified neighborhoods, and this sense of local identification has helped counter the alienation associated with modern city life.



### Also First in Baltimore:

The first actuated traffic light!

Baltimore's history, however, goes back farther than that of its neighborhoods, originating in the economic needs of 18<sup>th</sup> century Maryland farmers. Nature blessed the future site of Baltimore City with a natural harbor on the Chesapeake Bay and a number of potential mill sites on the streams dropping over the fall line. Farmers bringing cereal crops to the mills for grinding were impatient with requirements that made them carry their goods to previously established ports. They, along with Baltimore County's tobacco growers, were anxious to have a customs house built in a convenient spot. Local landowners, led by the prominent Carroll family, petitioned Maryland's governor for such a house, and on August 8, 1729, a bill establishing Baltimore as a town was signed into law.

Gradually, the new town took on a life of its own. Local entrepreneurs, conscious of northern Maryland's and southern Pennsylvania's grain fields, were quick to take advantage of Baltimore's swift-flowing streams, a rarity in coastal Maryland.

Shipwrights and merchants, preparing to carry flour milled on Jones Falls and Gwynns Falls to the distant reaches of the British Empire, settled along the fringes of the harbor. By 1768, the town had grown large enough to become the seat of Baltimore County.

The growing city acutely felt the Anglo-American tensions which led up to the American Revolution. As a seafaring and trading community, it suffered from commerce regulations which the British government attempted to impose. When the revolution erupted, it was evident where Baltimore's sympathies were. Her citizens not only served in the Continental army, but also participated enthusiastically in the government-licensed piracy known as "privateering." British merchants suffered losses they would long remember, and Baltimore's size and wealth burgeoned accordingly. Its population doubled between 1776 and 1790, and by 800 had doubled again.

Baltimore thrived during the Napoleonic Wars. In addition to preventing Europe from feeding itself, the conflict also used the ships which could have gone to foreign markets. Baltimore had both foodstuffs to sell and ships to carry them and continued to find enormous profit in overseas trade.

Both the British and French governments saw this as opportunism, and the British tried everything short of violence to cripple America's efforts to supplant her as ruler of the seas. In response to what was seen as harassment, America declared war in 1812. A British admiral said, "Baltimore is a doomed town".

*Can this be the end of Baltimore? Stay tuned for Part II: A History of the City!*

Reprinted from the Baltimore Area Convention & Visitors Association at: [www.baltconvstr.com/history/index.html](http://www.baltconvstr.com/history/index.html)



I heard a rumor about a dance where "the sun don't shine"....

### Mints on Your Pillow Are Not Included

Since you were interested enough to turn to the back page, here are the room rates. (Just be sure to read all the information on the other pages, okay Hon?)

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, 1bdrm:		
Harbor View	\$500	\$475
City View	\$450	\$475
Hospitality Suite, 2bdrm:		
Harbor View	\$600	\$575
City View	\$550	\$575

Crack the Crab Newsletter #1  
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Writing, layout & scrounging for graphics were the responsibility of several heavily medicated individuals, but you can send any comments or suggestions for future issues to Claude Crab at [ctcin2000@iagsdc.org](mailto:ctcin2000@iagsdc.org), or through the Convention PO Box. Hon.