



What's Happening at the IJA?

WHAT IS THIS?

This electronic newsletter is the first in a series of experiments that the IJA Board will be trying over the next couple of years to keep you informed.

In addition to reading JUGGLE magazine, you can consult the member forums on the IJA web site where there are often passionate discussions about our future directions. If you aren't comfortable joining in the public discussion on the web forums, feel free to send an email to the board members and let us know what you think.

Publication of this newsletter will be irregular to start with as we try new ideas. If you have experience with producing electronic newsletters, we would appreciate your ideas and/or help.

There is room in this newsletter for local events that you would like other members to know about. Please allow LOTS of lead time.

IS THERE A TREASURER / BOOKKEEPER OUT THERE?

The IJA is looking for a volunteer to keep our books. Familiarity with Quickbooks, and basic bookkeeping and accounting would be a great advantage. The duties would be:

- * Post transactions from Paypal, our merchant account and our bank accounts into Quickbooks.
- * Work with treasurer, membership directors, store manager and festival registrar to ensure that all transaction data is collected promptly and accurately.
- * Issue invoices from Quickbooks for wholesale orders.
- * Produce monthly, quarterly, and annual reports from Quickbooks.
- * Take regular backups of Quickbooks data and email to treasurer.

On a continuing basis the job will probably take five to ten hours a month, but there is a large backlog of transactions to be entered from last year. Researching and posting all the transactions for 2005 and 2006 may take fifty to a hundred hours.

If this job requires more than sixty hours work in a year the volunteer will receive two package plans to the next IJA festival. Contact Kim Laird (laird@juggle.org)

WEBMASTERS WANTED!

Dave Davis and Joyce Howard have been the principal developers of our most recent web site. They would both like to pursue other projects and the IJA is very grateful for their uncounted hours of hard work. We would like to spread out the development and maintenance work over several people to keep the tasks manageable as we move forward.

The webmaster position requires a wide variety of skills, not all of which need be contained within one person. The IJA website is hosted on a Unix/Linux based service so an understanding of Unix is helpful. We run on an Apache server and use MySQL and PHP (as well as CSS and of course HTML) throughout the website.

IJA 2007 FESTIVAL - WINSTON-SALEM

The IJA is overjoyed to announce that **Viktor Kee** has agreed to be the special guest at our 60th anniversary festival in 2007!

We have also lined up Yuri Pozdniakov to teach the special workshop. Yuri is the juggling instructor at the Ukraine Circus School and his workshop was so well received in Davenport that we are bringing him back with two of his students. In addition Viktor will join in the workshop for an hour each day to teach performance aesthetics.

The Benton Convention Center and The Stevens Center are both beautiful, modern, smoke-free facilities less than a block away from each other. We've got over 80,000 square feet of gym and workshop space with your choice of concrete or carpeted floors and ceiling heights of 25 feet throughout most of the building (as much as 40 feet in some places).

There are two hotels within a block of the facilities, a Marriott and an Embassy Suites, both recently refurbished from the ground up. The Embassy Suites will be offering rooms with full kitchens and both hotels will allow quad occupancy. We hope to have reservations open by early fall.

The entire location is conveniently situated in between an art district and a "restaurant row"... and yes, there is a Starbucks in the lobby of the Embassy Suites.

Personally I'm extremely excited about next year's festival already. With Sandy Brown as Assistant Director I feel very confident in saying that this will be the best 60th anniversary festival the IJA has ever had!

Hope to see you all there!
John Satriano

Our system was designed to be low maintenance and most weeks it takes less than an hour to maintain (excluding store and membership functions which hopefully will be done by someone other than the webmaster).

Where possible we use out-of-box solutions and thus it is possible to do most tasks without an advanced skill set. Thus being IJA webmaster is a good skill/resume building opportunity. That said, there will be occasions where longer hours and advanced skills are required.

There is a lot of opportunity to improve the IJA website dramatically in the near future. Please contact webmaster@juggle.org for more information.

JUGGLE IS RETURNING TO FOUR ISSUES / YEAR

This year marks the end of our publishing contract with Stagerwrite publishing for JUGGLE magazine. When the bids came in for a new contract, it was a shocker! There was no way that we could reasonably continue to publish six times a year and have any money left for other projects, even if we increased annual dues. There have been various discussions about alternatives, including self publishing, electronic formats, DVDs, and just not having a magazine.

Those of us on the IJA Board talked with a lot of you at the festival in Portland about the magazine issue. Most people said that they really want the printed magazine, but were willing to try other options as well.

The Board has decided to contract with Alan Howard, our existing editor, to publish JUGGLE four times a year. It will be the same great magazine you are used to. Alan will be trying some new layout ideas and looking for new advertising options.

We have also contracted with Alan Plotkin to create an experimental DVD magazine for the IJA. You can expect to receive a copy before next summer. This is not a replacement for JUGGLE. It is an entirely new project initiated by Andrew Conway, our video coordinator.

JUGGLE has cost more than we receive from membership fees ever since we moved to six issues per year. The remaining costs have come from other revenue, mainly festival profits. It was hoped that moving to six issues per year would have increased membership, but it never happened. Now our costs will be more in line with our revenue. By next summer we will all have seen the DVD magazine, and a few issues of this newsletter in addition to JUGGLE. If we all want more then we can decide if we're willing to pay for it!

What would it take to get back to six issues of JUGGLE? The only reasonable way at the moment would be to double the membership. The economics of printing a small number of magazines are not favorable. The more we can print, the lower the cost per member. Most established jugglers have heard about the IJA by now, so we will have to look for new jugglers. Over the next year we will be adding new content to the web site specifically for new jugglers. See the next article about a new instruction/information sheet.

HOW TO JUGGLE ?

How often have you taught someone how to juggle and then watched them walk away while you wonder if they'll remember anything in the morning? There are lots of different juggling instructions in books and on the internet, but there is nothing at the IJA web site. At a recent Board meeting, it was proposed that the IJA develop a basic instruction sheet for new jugglers. It would be available on our web site so that all members could print a few copies and hand them out. In addition to the basic instructions, there would be information about the IJA festival and workshops, and a bit about the magazine and our DVDs. There would be space for local juggling clubs to include their coordinates, and probably some simple advertising to help people locate the equipment they need. Ideally, it will be put together so that we can have a variety of translations available.

It is important that we reach new jugglers and convince them that the IJA is relevant to them. This will help. Sure, this is a bit like re-inventing the wheel. Except that it is our wheel! If the International Jugglers' Association can't teach people to juggle, then who can?

Perhaps you already have a set of instructions that you'd like to share, or you'd be interested in working on this project. Please contact Don Lewis (lewis@juggle.org). Ideas are welcome!

HOW DID HE DO THAT?

This newsletter was put together on a Mac Mini using software called Pages. It took a couple of hours, mostly writing the text. Future editions will include pictures and articles of more general interest as well. This first issue is a bit rushed because the IJA Board would like everyone to see the invitations to volunteer to help with bookkeeping and the web as soon as possible.

This newsletter is being sent to members with email addresses on file. You can update your email address by sending it to memberships@juggle.org.

THE IJA HAS A NEW MAIL ADDRESS

International Jugglers' Association
PO Box 7307
Austin, TX 78713-7307
U S A

You can renew your membership online at <http://www.juggle.org/renew>

Edited by Don Lewis