

IJA eNewsletter editor: Don Lewis (email: enews@juggle.org)Renew at <http://www.juggle.org/renew>

What's Happening at the IJA ?

Have A Great New Year !!!

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Austin, TX

St, Paul MN

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Brooklyn, NY

Rochester, NY

Montreal, QC

College Park, MD

Full 2009 IJA festival details are now available on the website, and online registration is open. All fest info is available at: <http://www.juggle.org/festival>

Winston-Salem 2009:

The Latest News on the IJA Festival

The stars have aligned! The Cascade of Stars, that is! All the headliners are set for the 62nd annual International Jugglers' Association Festival, coming up this July 13-19, 2009 in beautiful Winston-Salem, North Carolina!

Festival Show Director Dan Holzman has lined up a blockbuster array of top American and international artists who will be appearing in shows at the festival, including a dynamite Welcome Show on Tuesday night and capping the week's theater entertainment with a dazzling Cascade of Stars show on Friday night!

Special Guests for the festival include Michael Chirrick, Florent LeStage, Greg Kennedy, Peter Irish, Ivan Pecel, Sean Blue and Team RdL, composed of Americans Jay Gilligan and Wes Peden plus Erik Åberg and Peter Elmnert from Sweden.

The fun starts with the Special Workshop, juggling competitions, the IJA annual business meeting and the big Welcome Show all on Tuesday, July 14. Then the non-stop excitement of shows, competitions, workshops and juggling continues through the week, wrapping up with a huge "Juggle Jam" party Saturday night!

Plus, Team RdL will be leading the three-day Special Workshop. They're coming from Sweden to the IJA Festival to teach and demonstrate some of the brilliant new work they have created with both familiar traditional props and new ones. Catch the Team RdL video trailer on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1nmf5PcxZA>) for a taste of some of the new tricks and innovations which they will be sharing in the workshop.

The 2009 festival brochure will be inserted into your next issue of JUGGLE, and a downloadable PDF version of the brochure with complete details and the IJA online registration page is on the IJA web site now at

<http://www.juggle.org/festival>.

You can make your hotel reservations now! The two official festival hotels are at the center of the week's activity, making either the Marriott Winston-Salem or the Embassy Suites Winston-Salem a perfect choice for taking in all the fest has to offer, just steps from the gym, the shows, and dozens of restaurants and shops in the beautiful downtown Winston-Salem Twin City Quarter district.

Click the links below to make your reservations at special IJA rates now -- but hurry, availability of the best rooms is limited!

Embassy Suites:

<http://www.juggle.org/embassysuites>

Marriott:

<http://www.juggle.org/marriott>

And if you're flying to the Winston-Salem area and arriving at Greensboro/High Point Airport (airport code GSO), look for special discounted shuttle service for IJA members, saving you money and making getting to and from downtown affordable and hassle-free. Discounted shuttle service will be available for arrivals on Monday and Tuesday, and for departures on Sunday -- complete details in your festival brochure!

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

The IJA depends on a strong and enthusiastic volunteer force to help out with the myriad tasks, big and small, that help our festival succeed. If you can donate even an hour or two of your time to pitch in on this mammoth effort in Winston-Salem, PLEASE contact IJA Volunteer Coordinator Dina Sharnhorst at festvolunteers@juggle.org.

Want to help out with the IJA festival, either in advance or at the fest? Fest tasks in need of volunteers will be continually updated at: <http://www.juggle.org/vols>

Some of the positions Dina would like to fill before the fest include:

- IJA Security Team
- VIP / Guest Chauffeur
- Emergency Errand Runner
- T-Shirt Table Sales

- IJA Table Assistant
- Box Office Assistant
- IJA Ambassador for prospective spectators
- Juggling timekeepers
- Backstage show assistants

...and many more. PLEASE consider donating a few hours of your week to make the fest great for all of us and contact Dina today! THANKS!

For questions on the festival, please contact 2009 Festival Director Mike Sullivan at festival2009@juggle.org.

Get Involved !

The following volunteer positions are open. Help keep the IJA moving forward by helping your fellow jugglers.

IJA Online Store Manager

You can be anywhere and do this job. Scott Seltzer proved that by doing it from Israel. The store manager updates product descriptions. The IJA store uses OSCommerce software, but you don't need to be a computer expert to add products and update prices.

IJA Video Coordinator

Do you like the videos the IJA has produced? Help keep them coming by taking charge of video production. You don't have to stand behind the camera, or do the video editing yourself. You will solicit bids for parts of the project, and oversee the duplication and initial distribution by a professional duplicator. You'll also have access to previous video volunteers for experienced advice.

Festival Director - Reno 2010

Are you a great host? How about hosting the best juggling party of the year? There are always enthusiastic volunteers to help out so you don't have to do everything yourself. Get involved now, and see how Mike Sullivan makes producing Winston-Salem 2009 look easy and professional.

You want to help, but it just seems like too much? Consider getting your local juggling club to take on a project as a group effort and spread the load. As long as there is a group leader for each project we're open to creative solutions.

Do you want more information about any of these positions? Send an e-mail to volunteers@juggle.org and Volunteer Coordinator Laura Kaseman will make sure your questions get answered.

Nominations 2009

The most fundamental thing that we do as members of the IJA each year is to elect a Board of Directors. We are able to do that because each year a few of our fellow jugglers accept nominations and stand for election for these volunteer positions.

How do you want the IJA to evolve? Who do you think will be able to lead us in a good direction? Start thinking who you want to vote for, and begin convincing them that they should accept a nomination. Consider that the ideal candidate might just be staring back at you in the mirror.

There are three positions to be filled this year, for a two year term. Nominations should be mailed to nominations@juggle.org.

Please consult the IJA nominations and elections web page for deadlines and procedures.

<http://www.juggle.org/business/nominations.php>

Green Clubs, Cutting the Tennis Ball, by Don Lewis

My least favorite part of making Green Clubs is cutting old tennis balls in half. Serendipity recently made that a bit easier.

During the holidays I found myself needing to cut a small mountain of baguettes (french bread) into slices. My old bread knife just wasn't going to be up to the task. I visited the local commercial kitchen supply store, fully expecting to have to spend a ridiculous price for a really good knife to get the job done. Well they certainly had lots of expensive knives, but they also had some wickedly serrated utility knives made by Johnson-Rose that were both solid and well under \$10 that made short work of my stack of baguettes.

The next time I had to slice some tennis balls to make clubs, I tried my new knife out and it was much easier than an Xacto or a utility knife. The ball hardly had a chance to fight back. So my new favorite tool for slicing tennis balls is a 13 inch serrated bread knife.

A sharp knife makes the job easier and safer, but remember to keep your fingers out of the way. Don't push hard on the knife, let it do the work. The harder you push on the blade, the more chance it has to bounce off the ball and shorten your fingers. Be Careful !

Youth Jugglership Program 2009

Do you know a young juggler who would benefit from attending the IJA fest in Winston-Salem in 2009? The IJA Youth Jugglership Committee is looking for promising, young jugglers who have a thirst to learn more. Nominees to this program must be 17 years old or under, show a strong desire to learn more in their juggling education, and have a financial need. They may not yet be an IJA member but must be nominated by an IJA member.

In 2008 we awarded one Jugglership to Taylor Glenn, a 17 year-old from Salt Lake City, Utah. The experience of attending the IJA fest inspired Taylor to reach for new heights in her juggling repertoire. At this point in the year it is known that we will be able to provide at least 2 Jugglerships for 2009 thanks to several IJA members who have made donations to this program.

For more information about the IJA Youth Jugglership Program, including the application form, look online at <http://www.juggle.org/programs/youthjugglership>. The deadline to nominate a promising young person is February 1, 2009. Recipients will be notified personally by March 1, 2009. Questions? Would you like to donate a youth fest package and/or youth membership to the Jugglership program? Email youthjugglerships@juggle.org.

We're Going West!!

It is official. The IJA is heading to Sparks, Nevada for the 2010 juggling festival. The dates are July 25 to August 1st. We'll be staying at the Nugget Hotel. Sparks is served by the Reno airport, with good connections to just about everywhere. In fact, Reno is so close to Sparks that anyone looking for extra entertainment can be there in minutes via taxi or shuttle. This is close to the mountains, and Lake Tahoe as well.

<http://www.janugget.com>



IJA Bailout, by James D. Ellison

As the IJA faces a growing financial problem, I'm surprised no one has thought of the current popular answer: a government bailout.

In the U.S., Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are considered TBTF (Too Big to Fail). So let's convince the federal government that the IJA is TVTNMTF (Too Vital to National Morale to Fail). We send a delegation to Washington (not on our private jets, please) and make our pitch. We need to convince lawmakers that a world without a strong juggling organization is a world no one wants. It would be a world without whimsy, a world without play. A selling point is that if the IJA fails, it would be a blow to the variety industry. If jugglers can't make it, can ventriloquists and quick-change artists be far behind?

Sure, we'll say, the economy stinks. But we're all in this together. Every variety art is like a passer in a multi-person feed; we all must function effectively in order for the pattern to exist. No doubt the lawmakers will try to shift the blame to us. Could we have managed ourselves better? How come the Japanese are so efficient, excelling in Eastern and Western forms of juggling? We may have to make some concessions, such as to hold down costs. They may ask if we're willing to work for \$1 a year. We reply that we weren't looking for that big of a raise.

In the end, though, we make our point. The nation needs us. America will prosper only by investing in juggling technology of the future. The feds funnel trillions of dollars our way, on the condition that we not spend it all on poi.

Where are we going ? by Chuck Hawley

At our December board meeting, it was made clear by bookkeeper Holly Greeley that the IJA financial footing is slipping. If current trends continue, we as an organization will have some very tough, drastic decisions to make by the end of this year. The fact is that membership, festival attendance, and income are all on the decline. In addition we have lost our video inventory due to our necessary compliance with music copyright laws.

The festival site selection committee is looking for direction from the board. There is concern that if we sign a contract too far in advance that we will not be able to fulfill it. At the same time if we wait too long we may not be able to lock in good pricing. The board is looking for input from the membership. What aspects of the festival are absolutely necessary to keep? What should be cut out? Where can we save money while not compromising attendance?

I think we need to re-evaluate our current volunteer model. Since we have converted to this business model we have had a decrease in the number of volunteers and an increase in the amount of work by each of the volunteers. I fear that soon we will not have any fresh volunteers to fill the positions

of those volunteers who leave their positions. Once again the board would like to hear from the membership - what would you like the organization to do. Increase the number of paid staff? If so how do we afford it? How should we attract more volunteers? How do spread the workload?

Our magazine contact ends in December 2009. Anthony Shave is addressing this and you will be hearing more from him in the near future.

I am writing this in a hope to start the conversation about where to go. I am not as pessimistic as others about the future of the organization. I think we have a lot to offer as an organization. We just need to find the right way to do it.

All comments are welcome. If you prefer you can email the board directly- board@juggle.org.

Editors note: This text originally appeared on the IJA forum. Go to <http://www.juggle.org/forum/read.php?6,16004> to see a variety of replies and opinions.



Join us for the 31st Annual
Groundhog Day Jugglers Festival
 Atlanta, Georgia Feb 6-8, 2009

Gym Hours:
 Friday, Feb 6 5 pm – 10 pm
 Saturday, Feb 7 10 am – 10 pm
 Sunday, Feb 8 11 am – 5 pm

Large recreation hall at the Yaarab Shrine Center
 400 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, GA 30308
 (from I-75/85 take Freedom Pkwy exit, go east
 on the pkwy, then left on Ponce de Leon Ave)

Open juggling all weekend in big gym with great floor and lighting
 Competition for the PHIL trophy on Saturday afternoon at 2 pm
 Late night cabaret on Saturday at Horizon Theater at 11 pm
 \$15 registration for weekend of juggling, raffle ticket and 2 shows

For more information see our web site at
<http://www.atlantajugglers.org> or
 call Jay Jones at (404) 288-7954 or email jay@juggler.net

Juggling Festivals

Groundhog Festival
 Atlanta, GA, February 6, 7, 8
<http://www.atlantajugglers.org>

Austin Jugglefest
 February 20, 21, 22
<http://juggling.place.org/jugglefest>

Mondo Fest, St. Paul MN
 February 20, 21, 22
<http://www.mondofest.org>


Illini Juggling Festival
 University of Illinois
 March 6, 7, 8 2009
<https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/ro/www/IlliniJugglingandUnicycleClub/>

Juggle This!
 Brooklyn, NY, April 3, 4, 5
<http://jugglennyc.com/fests.html>

RIT Spring JuggleFest
 Rochester, NY, April 17, 18, 19
<http://www.rit.edu/sg/jugglingclub/jugglein>

Montreal Juggling Festival
 Montreal, QC, May 1,2,3
<http://www.jaq.qc.ca>

Congress of Jugglers
 College Park MD May 8, 9, 10
<http://www.studentorg.umd.edu/juggling>



Austin Jugglefest
 University of Texas
 Feb. 20-22, 2009
 Special Guests:
Dan Holzman
Cate Emily
Tony Pezzo

<http://juggling.place.org/jugglefest>



Illini Juggling and Unicycle Club Festival
 University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
 March 6, 7, 8 2009

<https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/ro/www/IlliniJugglingandUnicycleClub/>



UMD JUGGLING CLUB
CONGRESS OF JUGGLERS 2009
MAY 8-10 @ THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
FREE JUGGLING ALL WEEKEND + PUBLIC SHOW ON SATURDAY NIGHT

For more info, visit <http://www.studentorg.umd.edu/juggling>

The poster features a central illustration of a juggler in silhouette on the left, with various juggling objects like balls, clubs, and rings in motion around them, all enclosed within a circular frame. Above the main title is a logo consisting of a circle with three small circles inside it.

Having a Juggling Festival? List it here!

If you're organizing a juggling festival (or if you simply know of a juggling fest) and you want to advertise it in the IJA eNewsletter, just drop a note to eNewsletter editor Don Lewis enews@juggle.org. Such listings are free.

The eNewsletter generally comes out near the end of each month. Your festival can be listed for a few months, and you don't have to be an IJA affiliate to have a fest listed. Hey, jugglers want to know about juggling fests. Help them out and get more jugglers to your fest at the same time.

More Festivals!

Check the world wide juggling event listings on the IJA Website at <http://www.juggle.org/events>.

The information on that page is updated daily thanks to an XML feed from the International Juggling DataBase. You can submit your own event to the list where it will be reviewed by an editor before being added.

<http://www.jugglingdb.com/events/submit.php>

Basic Club Tricks - continued, by Don Lewis**The Flourish.**

This is a trick where the club never leaves your hand. It rotates around and through your fingers. There are several styles of flourish, but we're going to do one that is fairly easy to learn. In the workshop, I explain the movement and demonstrate, and see a lot of confused expressions. The mind wants to make this a lot more complicated than it really is, probably because the starting position is unusual.

Hold your hand out in front of you, palm down. Just to be perfectly clear, your palm is horizontal to the floor. If there was a table top in front of you, you could slap it.

Place a club vertically between your thumb and the rest of your hand, with the handle pointing up, and the body below your hand. We're working with the club's balance point, so most of the handle should be sticking up above your hand.

Using the fingertips of your other hand, reach under the club and move the tip of the club body towards you, just inside the forearm. Keep going until the club has made a half circle. Turn your hand over as you go so that it is palm up, but don't change your grip on the club. The body of the club is now above your hand, and the handle is below it. That's the inside circle. Now that you know what it feels like, you don't need the other hand any more.

Next, let the body of the club fall forward between the first two fingers of your hand and turn your hand over again. This time the club rotates outside your arm. You wind up with the handle in your palm, still gripped between those two fingers. If you just move your forefinger to the other side of the handle, you're back in a totally normal grip. Or, you can move your thumb to the other side of the handle, allow the club to rotate, and you're back in the starting position.

Try that a whole lot of times, until the movement is continuous. The movement is inside circle to palm up, and outside circle to palm down. The initial act of turning your hand palm up swings the club towards you and gives the club its starting momentum. By moving your thumb out of the way at the end of the trick, you can flourish continuously.

Now you need to learn how to get into the starting position when juggling. It's simple. You catch the club high and early in its flight. Still with one club, throw a regular cascade throw to the other hand. Make sure it peaks at least at shoulder level, since if you are going to catch high and early, the club has to at least get up there. Stick your hand out, palm down, and catch the club in the crook of your thumb. You catch it earlier than normal, so the club hasn't rotated to its regular position. And that is just where you want it. It feels a bit strange, but just stick your hand out there about shoulder level, and you'll find a club in it with the handle sticking upwards.

Practice grabbing that club out of the air, and going directly into the flourish movement in one fluid motion. Practice both sides until it feels quite comfortable.

The flourish takes a bit of time, so including it in the three club cascade means that you need to add some free time to your pattern. The way to do that is to combine two tricks. The double height throw introduces a wait in your pattern, so a flourish is a good thing to do while you're waiting.

Juggle a cascade, and initiate a flourish with a high, early, thumb catch. Your next throw from the other hand is a nice lofty double. The double can be either a crossing throw to the hand that is doing the flourish, or a column throw to the same hand. Finish the flourish and throw it, catch the double, and resume your cascade. Work on flourishes from either side. Once you're adept on each side, try flourishing on both sides using a triple to gain the time you'll need.

The most common problem adding this trick to the cascade is freezing. You catch the club in the right position to start the trick, throw the double from the other hand, and notice that your hand hasn't even started the flourish. It's practically glued in space while everything else is hitting the floor. Part of it is that your hand simply isn't used to catching in that position. Another part is that you have to throw a double, a different trick, with the other hand. Your inner sceptic is convinced there'll never be enough time to put everything together. If this happens to you, make your hand do the flourish and then pick up the rest of the clubs. Try again. Once your hand gets the idea that you're going to make it do the flourish regardless of what else happens, the trick will smooth out. Also, make sure that double is going high enough to give you enough time to finish the flourish.

This is still a cascade pattern, so you do have to keep your arm moving. Don't just reach out, catch the club, stop and do the flourish, and then start juggling again. It helps if you catch the club with a slight upward motion while you begin the flourish. As you finish the movement, bring your arm down and into a regular cascade throw.

This is a flashy, impressive trick that is well worth a bit of practice to add to your repertoire.

The Birdhouse Factory, by Don Lewis

According to the printed programme, if you mix Circus, Machinery, Theatre, and Dance, you have a perfect description of the Birdhouse Factory. I saw the show at La Tohu, in Montreal where it played to enthusiastic audiences.

The juggling interest in the show is provided by Pat McGuire. In the first part he presents a very businesslike routine of large balls. In the second half he juggles birdhouses that very much resemble cigar boxes.

At the end of the show, I sat there for a few minutes and the thought that came to me was that Art Jennings would have loved this show. Art loved tinkering with machinery and building things. He would cheerfully rant on to anyone who would listen that a good show had to tell a story, and have engaging characters, not just a succession of acts.

Imagine a circular platform, then perch it on unicycles at each of the cardinal points. Two acrobats can pedal this hugely maneuverable contraption all over the stage with apparent ease. Place a contortionist on the center of the platform, and she can be wheeled all over the stage so that everyone gets an up close view.

All the props in the show turned out to be parts of the factory setting, some obvious and other less so.

I won't ruin the story by telling you the whole thing. If the show comes to your town, go see it.

<http://www.birdhousefactoryshow.com>

Is Anyone Out There ???

I've been lucky to have seen a lot of interesting shows over the last few months, and writing about them helps keep them fresh in my mind. I've been hoping that some of you would see those reviews and basically say "well, I just saw a show and it was amazing...let me tell you about it.". So cosy up to your keyboards and make us all jealous by letting us know what's good out there. You don't have to provide a

minute by minute replay. Just provide the flavor and let readers' imaginations color in the details.

If you're worried about grammar, spelling, and readability, your text will be checked by at least two people before it is published.

Finally! The IJA festival video is at the duplication house and in production. Look for it "real soon now,,,"



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJ4xsT5icJ4&fmt=18>