

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

What's Happening at the IJA ?

In This Issue:

Festival Discount Ends
Festival News
YouTube Videos
Going Back...
Nominations
Competition Rules

World Juggling Day
Get Involved !
Donate Miles
Regional Festivals
Help a New Club Passer
Kendama Competition

Jugglership Winners
Workshops

Festivals:

Montreal, QC
College Park, MD

The Early-Bird Festival Registration Discount Ends April 30th Don't miss it!

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

Winston-Salem 2009: BLINK YOUR EYES AND YOU'LL BE THERE!

How time flies! After months and months of planning, work and anticipation, we're less than 90 days away from seeing each other again in Winston-Salem, North Carolina at the 2009 IJA Festival! This year's festival is shaping up to be one of the BEST EVER, with amazing headliners, a world-class workshops schedule and workshops director, exciting shows and competitions, and a city that warmly welcomes our juggling family for a whole week of fun.

And if you haven't already registered for the 2009 festival, DO IT NOW! The early registration deadline is April 30 (JUST A FEW DAYS AWAY!), and pre-registration is the ONLY way to reserve your discounted airport shuttle van between festival headquarters in downtown Winston-Salem and GSO Airport.

Registration is quick and easy on the secure IJA Web store, and you can save yourself time and money by registering NOW so that you can start enjoying your week as soon as you get to the fest! Register now at <http://www.juggle.org/festival>

WORKSHOPS!!

2009 Workshops Director Matt Hall is busy getting together an amazing array of free workshops for this year's fest, with both variety and depth that make your week at the fest a great

learning experience. And there's still time to chip in with a workshop idea of your own -- if you can put on a workshop, on ANY topic that might be of interest to jugglers, please contact Matt with your ideas at workshops@juggle.org.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

There are still slots available in the Special Workshop at this year's festival, where you can see and learn from Team RdL: Jay Gilligan, Patrik Elmnert, Wes Peden and Erik Aberg -- direct from Stockholm, Sweden! Check out <http://www.juggle.org/festival/2009/2009spclworkshop.php> for the amazing video sampler produced by Team RdL to see just a glimpse of some of the inventive things they'll be teaching in the Special Workshop during this year's festival.

Space is strictly limited, and advance registration is required for this optional workshop, so sign up NOW! See full details online at the link above or in your 2009 Festival Brochure.

FESTIVAL PROMO VIDEOS: The fabulous IJA promo video team led by Bill Barr is still cranking out videos every other week or so, giving you tons of reasons why you CAN'T MISS the 2009 festival! Have you seen ALL of the 19-plus videos posted so far, including some amazing CAT JUGGLING footage from Kevin Axtell? Check it out online at <http://www.youtube.com/user/IJAvideo>

FESTIVAL T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST WINNER: ALAN ALOVUS!

Regular IJA eNewsletter readers will recall that we had a festival t-shirt design contest, which invited jugglers to submit a cool t-shirt design for the official 2009 festival t-shirt. By the time the competition closed on March 30, we had received more than two dozen designs from jugglers all over the country. After carefully considering all the designs, we have selected the winning T-shirt design for the 2009 festival.

Congratulations to IJA Member Alan Alovus of Tallahassee, FL, with his amazingly inventive submission, "Something for Everyone". As our winner, Alan will receive a complimentary festival package plan for this year's fest, and his design will be plastered all over the bodies of hundreds of festival attendees this July!

I know you'll love the this year's festival t-shirt with Alan's design, but remember: THE ONLY WAY TO GET ONE IS TO COME TO THE FESTIVAL -- so register NOW!

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.

There are still several important volunteer positions that are vacant and we're searching for a dedicated, generous IJA volunteer to fill them. Please look over the list online at <http://juggle.org/vols> and see if you can help!

For questions on the festival, or to offer your help on this mammoth effort by our all-volunteer Association, please contact 2009 Festival Director Mike Sullivan at festival2009@juggle.org.

The Financial Future of the IJA *by Chuck Hawley*

Right now is a critical time for the IJA. We are experiencing a number of negative trends including a declining membership (down 8% this year), reduced attendance at festivals, and overall financial loss of around \$26,000. Like much of the world around us the IJA is hurting financially.

There are a number of reasons for our decline. The Internet has changed the way jugglers communicate and learn. The IJA magazine and roster have lost some of their importance. Local festivals have become larger and now compete with the IJA fest. Finally, the current economy has certainly been a factor.

One major thing that needs to be re-evaluated is our current business model. We have been running an all-volunteer organization now for a little over five years. The organization's past volunteers have put in their time and when they leave their positions they are not being filled by new volunteers. Instead jobs tend to fall on those who are already doing other jobs for the IJA. As a result the attention that each project receives declines and retaining that volunteer becomes more difficult. There has been a limited response to requests for volunteers and the less people are doing more work. It appears as if the organization is running low on its volunteering resources. We do have the ability to go and hire a professional who has experience with non-profits in order to help us become a more marketable organization. There is a significant amount of money in various funds that the organization could use to finance projects to help us grow. If we continue to lose money the funds will be depleted anyway.

We have to make some decisions about our festival. We offer a lot more than we can afford, especially considering we depend on the festival making a profit in order to support the magazine. Our sites are already limited based on our size and budget. We have become accustomed to better facilities and lower prices

over the last couple of years. Without a major increase in attendance this is not financially viable. The festival site committee is looking for guidance for future sites from the board and the board is looking for input from the membership. The festival is the staple product of our organization and it is vital that we maintain it.

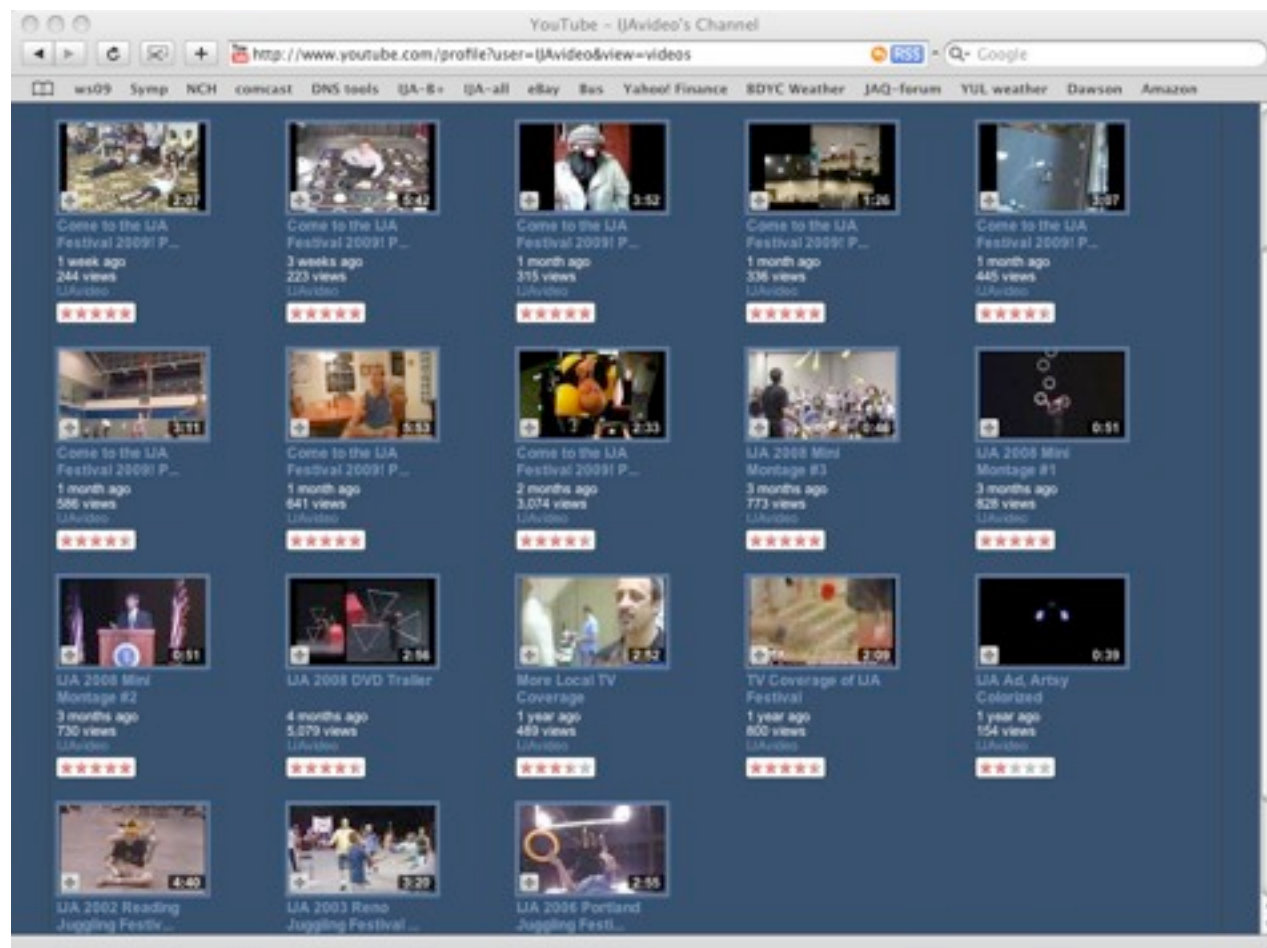
As I covered in my previous column, our current magazine contract ends this year. If we don't make a decision by the end of the year we won't have a magazine next year.

If the IJA is to thrive again the membership is going to have to step up in one way or another. We need to increase our volunteer base. We have people from a variety of backgrounds who are capable of doing much of the work that the organization needs. We need passionate people who are going to step up and run a project and see it through to its success. The other option is hire people to do the work for us. This is going to take a greater monetary commitment.

The IJA has a lot of positive things in its favor. We hold an amazing festival every year. Although the number of issues has been reduced we have a wonderful magazine that gives us great articles on juggling not seen anywhere else. Most importantly is our history. The IJA has been in existence for over 60 years and has had an enormous impact on the juggling community.

I urge all members to stay informed on the issues of the organization. In addition to the magazine we email a monthly eNewsletter. If you do not currently receive it by email please update your contact information by emailing Jim Maxwell at memberships@juggle.org. Please, join the conversation on the forums or email the board directly. Together we can find a way to make the organization prosper.

Note: This article originally appeared in JUGGLE magazine.



We now have posted seven new videos on the YouTube IJAVideo Channel, one a week each Friday. These are being made by IJA Member YouTube jugglers. Many of you have already seen them. As of the third week in April, those watching the videos on the IJAVideo Channel and other YouTube sites totals over seven thousand views. This recent increased activity on the site has given incentive for an increasing number of IJA Members to subscribe to the YouTube IJAVideo Channel. If you haven't already subscribed, you may do so at <http://www.youtube.com/user/IJAVideo>. You have to have a YouTube account to do so, however it is easy to create one free, and this might even encourage you to post juggling videos.

An excellent feature of the site is that there is in the information bar a direct link to IJA Festival Registration <http://www.juggle.org/festival/2009/>

We thank all of the IJA Members who have contributed videos so far, and those who intend to do so soon.

Here is a list of the latest videos:

Come To the IJA Festival 2009!

- Part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHZFYb3Rv_A
- Part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhJW6KoDBBs>
- Part 3 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBP_Rp5o6QA
- Part 4 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIFsMBHCHxw>
- Part 5 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAUY9J39Lxs>
- Part 6 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6INE7bc2tXs>
- Part 7 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-ZY9cqYxPo>

Hope you enjoy watching these videos, and hope to see you at the 62nd IJA Festival in Winston-Salem, NC, July 13-19.

It is The Place to Be.

The Committee for IJAVideo Festival Promotion

Going Back to Where We've Been

by Steve Rahn

As someone who has attended some 20+ IJA Festivals, I have to say that I think it will be very nice going back to a place we've been before. I recently watched what video I shot at the IJA 2007 Festival in Winston-Salem, NC and it reminded me of how good a festival site this was. The Benton Convention Center was huge, there were a lot of restaurants nearby and the Stevens Center Theater was beautiful. Also, the staff at the convention center couldn't have been nicer and it seemed like they were bending over backwards to please us.

There are a couple of nice websites you can visit to get more info on Winston-Salem:

http://www.visitwinstonsalem.com/visitor_center/vis_home.html

I ordered the visitor guide packet from this site and I received it in less than a week. It includes a restaurant guide.

<http://www.dwsp.org/>

There is a nice printable map of the downtown area and more information about restaurants.

It looks like the Embassy Suites is sold out of the IJA rate rooms, but there is still availability at the Marriott Winston-Salem at the IJA rate of \$104 a night (up to 4 people) and every room is smoke-free. Both these hotels are right across the street. The IJA also has rates for us at the Hawthorne Inn and Conference Center 4.5 blocks south.

In 2007 we were able to take advantage of special deals offered by the local restaurants and it sounds like that may be happening again this year too. For those of us who were there in 2007, it will be nice to know more about our meal options remembering where we've eaten before. I remember dining at a Thai restaurant, a brewpub and a having a fancy dinner at a restaurant in the Hawthorne Inn. All of the food and service was great.

I am excited about all the events, competitions and workshops that will be happening at the festival site including some new events like the Kendama Open and the Juggle Jam Party. I am also excited about this year's line-up of guest artists. This list of artists seems to me to be worthy of an anniversary year festival. This could be the one festival you wouldn't want to miss!!! I hope to see you all there!!!

Steve's right, everybody. By returning to Winston-Salem, we are coming back to a city and a facility that treated us right in 2007, and knows what we need in 2009. An organization our size, dependent as we are on an all-volunteer staff to pull off the festival each year, can't afford to re-invent the wheel by visiting a new city each year. Winston-Salem is a city that is really custom-built for holding our festival, and the fact that the IJA *can afford* going there is almost too good to be true.

I can assure you that there are NO disappointing surprises waiting for us to discover in a new city when we return to Winston-Salem this July, and that your week will be fun, comfortable and exciting! Please make plans NOW to join us there for a fest **everyone** will be talking about for many years to come.

Until then,

Mike Sullivan

2009 Festival Director

festival2009@juggle.org

Board Nominations For Summer 2009 -

To date, four candidates have stepped forward. Thanks to:

Kim Laird
Kevin McBeth
Scott Slesnick
Thom Wall

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 candidate statements, deadlines and procedures.

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

Important Stage Championships Information

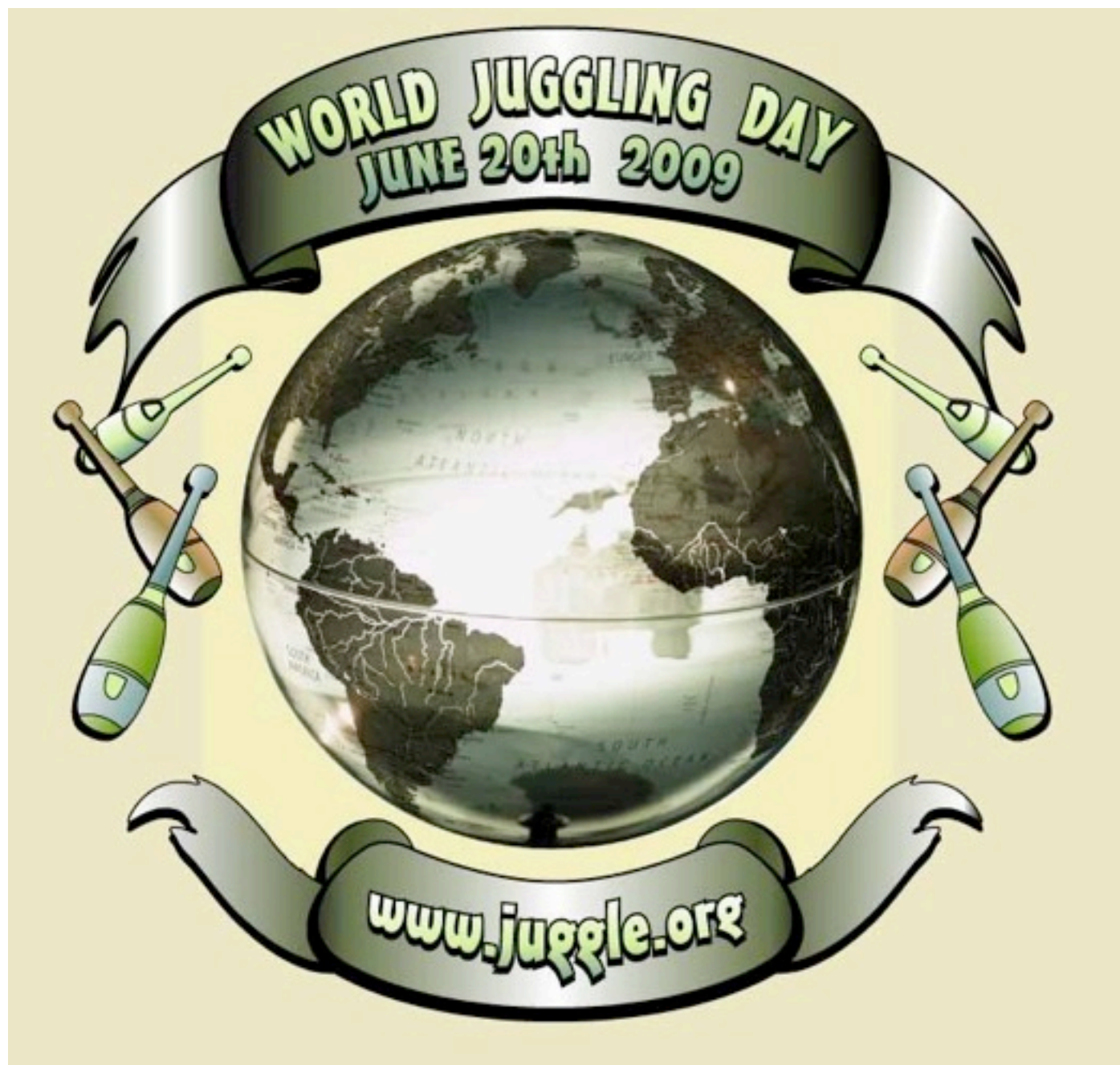
IJA Stage Championships Preliminary Competition
Deadline June 8 2009

All preliminary entries will be DVD videos.

See the IJA Stage Championships web page for further information- <http://www.juggle.org/stagechamps>

Questions or comments regarding the IJA Stage Championships should be addressed to:

Chuck Hawley
championships@juggle.org
Phone: 410-897-2469



You can win one of the dozens of Prizes!

To get people juggling on World Juggling Day (WJD), we invite individuals and groups to plan a juggling event on June 20, 2009. Do anything! Stage a show, hold a club meeting, host a juggling festival, teach juggling in a public park, or just juggle alone in your back yard!

Before the day arrives, go to our [Registration page](#) and enter our giveaway. Just for registering, you could win one of the prizes made possible by the [International Jugglers' Association](#) (IJA) and the [WJD sponsors](#):

Flying Clipper
Infinite Illusions
Higgins Brothers
Top Ten Toys
NWR Juggling

Get Involved !

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

IJA Recording Secretary

- ★ Attend monthly Board of Directors meetings through a conference call and record accurate minutes from the meeting.
- ★ Attend the IJA Annual Meeting at the IJA Festival and record meeting minutes for that meeting and meetings throughout the week. (Temporary replacement is an option if the secretary is unable to attend the festival)
- ★ Compile meeting minutes and distribute to the Webmaster, Board Members, and Officers in a timely fashion.
- ★ Type and send any official correspondence for the IJA.
- ★ Average time commitment is 3-4 hours per month, plus 4-8 hours at the festival.

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.

Championships Director

Learn the ropes in Winston-Salem by assisting Chuck Hawley with the 2009 championships. You'll be well prepared to take charge of the entire process at the 2010 festival.

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.

DONATE YOUR MILES TO THE IJA!

Do you have some airline Frequent Flyer miles you would be willing to donate to the IJA to help bring more world-class performers to the festival in Winston-Salem in July?

A donation of your miles can help the IJA pack every show with superb talent, and could bring someone in that we otherwise would not be able to budget for.

If you have miles and you'd like to donate them to the IJA (and get a big THANK-YOU from your fellow jugglers and the organization!), please contact 2009 Festival Director Mike Sullivan at festival2009@juggle.org.



Les Jongleurs Associés du Québec present the 2009 Montreal Juggling Festival May 1, 2, 3



3 large gyms
Crash space on site
Snack bar
Fire Jam
Games, Competitions
Workshops
Vendors

Gala Public Show directed by *Soisick Hébert*
Featuring *MATT HALL, Les Foubrac, and much more*

Location: École Lucien Pagé, 8200 St. Laurent, Montreal, QC

<http://www.jaq.qc.ca>

Sponsored by *McAuslan Brewing, Boutique Saltimbanque*

Juggling Festivals

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>



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>

Club Passing - Working with Beginners by *Don Lewis*

Every time I go to a festival somewhere I am encouraged to see that there are new jugglers eager to start club passing. Maybe they're watching wistfully from the sidelines, while struggling to keep their brand new clubs under control. Or, perhaps they're attempting to pass with a friend who isn't much better than they are. In most cases, they're too shy to ask for help, because that would mean interrupting a 'real' juggler. They haven't quite figured out that most of us are flattered to be asked and don't consider it an abuse of our time.

So, what are the problems of the beginning club passer, and how can we help?

The most common problem is a cascade pattern that is just too narrow. You can't throw a smooth, relaxed pass if you have to weave it through an obstacle course of two other clubs in front of you. To cure this, I usually recommend getting up close and personal with a tree. There usually are not many trees in a gym, so I just stand in front of the juggler with a club held vertically in front of me, about 18 inches away from them. That forces them to throw to either side to avoid hitting me. For the first few minutes, at least, beginners seem to have an innate reluctance to clobber the instructor. The first few times they try, it is pretty much certain that they'll hit your club. You may even have to get them to work up from one club to two, and then back to three. Once they get three to five good throws like that you can stop the exercise. That's enough to get the feeling, and more than a couple of minutes just gets frustrating.

Next, you want to figure out if they can actually pass in 6-count (every third right hand throw is a pass) for more than one or two passes. If they can't then I usually do 6-count with five clubs. I like to have one club that is a different color and designate that as the passing club. For this exercise one person has two clubs, one in each hand, and the other has three. The person with three starts juggling and passes when the designated passing club arrives at their right hand. The other person then juggles until that club arrives in their right hand and passes it back. The nice thing about this is that even if the beginner's pattern falls apart after the pass, they have a few beats to pick up and still stay in the rhythm. It usually takes a few minutes for the pattern to settle down and the self throws stop flying quite so wildly out of reach. This exercise is really good for building confidence in the passing rhythm.

Once five club 6-count is more or less working, the six club version starts to stabilize as well. If you have two clubs that are different, it helps provide a visual cue for the six count. If each person starts with a yellow club in the left hand, then that will be the one that gets passed. That visual cue takes a bit of the heat off the poor beginner who is trying to integrate a new catch, throw, and stay on an unfamiliar beat.

Your job at this point is to keep the pattern going regardless of what kind of dreadful stuff they throw at you. It is good exercise to make calm self throws and passes while your left arm is reaching all over the gym to pluck errant clubs out of the air. Remember to watch your partner like a hawk. Beginners often inadvertently send clubs flying like missiles, possibly right at you. A panicked self throw might find itself hitting your clubs into an unpredictable club explosion before your eyes. The best defense is to quickly turn away, and cautiously turn back. Why cautiously? Well at this point in the beginner's development the muscles are only loosely linked to the brain. The muscles may still have a club to throw on the beat, and you really want to know where that club is going before you turn back and get it between the eyes.

Once I get past three passes and start to move up to six and beyond I see real confidence settle in. It isn't stable or automatic yet, but the feeling is there. At this point, it is usually the self throw that is causing problems, and mostly it is out in front and in the way. The best exercise that I know to fix errant self throws is the three club pursuit. This is actually just 2-count with three clubs and three empty beats. The beginner starts with no clubs. You throw one to their left hand. When you throw the second one to their left hand, they do a left to right self, and wait with a club in each hand. Don't let them throw the self throw before you pass the second club. When you throw the third pass, they do a left to right self, pass to you from the right hand, catch your incoming pass on the left, and catch the self throw with the right. Their next move is to throw a left to right self, a right hand pass, and catch the self throw in the right hand. Finally they pass the remaining club.

There are two things for the beginner to work on here. The first is throwing a really good self pass because there is plenty of time to do that. The second is to catch that self throw, bring it smoothly down beside the leg and throw it straight across. There is only one beat where they are actually juggling three clubs so you can slow this right down, making sure the other person is stable before you make the next throw. Really work on that self throw - pass rhythm. If they throw the pass before doing the self, hand it back and make them do it right. Most people get this fairly smoothly within five to ten minutes. You can keep adding clubs, but many people have a lot of trouble moving from three to four in this exercise, including people who can do a six club 2-count with no problem at all.

Now you'll probably see a real improvement in 6-count passing. And that is a good place to stop. Beyond twenty to thirty minutes of this at one go you won't see much more improvement. You will notice a big difference the next day, including a huge smile on the face of a much better club passer.

If the basic 6-count is going fairly well, or if the beginner keeps getting lost in the count and throwing off beat, consider

going to 4-count (every other right hand throw is a pass). It is a more balanced rhythm, and beginners are often surprised that it seems easier than the slower 6-count once they've got their bearings. It is also the most popular pattern that they'll find in a gym full of club passers.

I've been interested to see that almost as soon as the 4-count pattern is working for a few throws, a lot of people can begin to manage a 3-count (right/left) pattern. It is a good thing to teach as early as possible since it opens up a lot of passing options. The earlier this is introduced, the less

time the brain has to fixate on only passing with the right hand.

Everyone learns at a different pace, so be alert for that moment when progress stalls and take a break there. Try to stop after a good run of passes so the muscles will remember what success feels like.

Take a break from your insanely difficult passing patterns, and spend some time with a beginner. The smiles alone are worth it.

Festival Workshops by Matt Hall

2009 Workshops Director Matt Hall here! I am really stoked for this year's festival and my goal is to pack the workshops lineup with as many incredible opportunities for learning as humanly possible. There is still time to jump in if you're interested in leading a workshop. Below are some workshops that I am looking for someone to lead. Past workshop experience is not necessary. Just be willing to share and to help others grow in their juggling. Ideally, I would like to have at least 2 instructors to team-teach the various workshops this year. Here is that still very incomplete list:

Beginning/Intermediate passing patterns/tricks for two people

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with 3 balls

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with 4 balls

Beginning tricks with 5 balls

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with 3 clubs

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with 4 clubs

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with 3 rings

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with 4 rings

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with cigar boxes

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with 1 diabolo

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with 2 diabolos

Beginning/Intermediate tricks with devil stick

How to: 2 devil sticks

How to: 3 diabolos

How to: Juggle and balance

How to: Hat Manipulation

How to: Club Swinging

How to: Ball Bouncing

How to: Contact juggling

How to: Understand and use Siteswap

I am also looking for breakout "moderators" who will guide some of the breakout sessions on different props. The moderators should be someone familiar with the breakout format as well as possessing intermediate/advanced level of skill with that particular prop.

I look forward to hearing about your ideas about what YOU want out of this year's workshop slate. Call me at 650-279-5334 or e-mail me at workshops@juggle.org

Matt Hall

Silver Creek High School

Thunderously Hip Japanese Program

<http://scweb.esuhdsd.org/programs/jp>

Juggle Sensei

<http://scweb.esuhdsd.org/programs/jugglesensei>



Festival Jugglerships - 2009 by Kim Laird

The IJA Youth Jugglership Committee is pleased to announce our jugglership recipients for 2009. Recipients receive a one year youth membership and a youth festival package to this year's fest in Winston-Salem, NC. 2009 Youth Jugglership Program (YJP) recipients are:

Jackson Warley of Colorado Springs, Colorado

Aubree Kolas of Sonora, California

Justin Kolas of Sonora, California

Thank you also to IJA members who have donated memberships and fest packages to the Youth Jugglership Program. It is through such generosity that this program will continue to grow to provide assistance to our young jugglers.