

JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • January 2011

JJ13 Q&A for Rookie Families...

...and Reminders for Veteran Families!

Q: What is Juggle Jam?

A: Juggle Jam 13 (JJ13), **May 13 at 7 pm and May 14 at 4:30 pm at Hopkins HS**, is the climax to our year, featuring all six clubs, skits, specialty acts, a Slide Show, and a Senior Presentation. New audience members are *surprised* with JJ's scope, entertainment value, and inspiration.

Q: Does my Jughead have to audition to be in JJ13?

A: No and Yes. Every Jughead is guaranteed to appear in our Opening & Finale, club routine(s), and Slide Show, but "specialty acts" (solos & small ensembles) are determined by auditions in April. Even Ultimate-level specialty acts may not make it into JJ.

Q: Are there extra time commitments involved for JJ13?

A: The only extra rehearsals involving the entire company are the evenings of May 3 & 11. However, all Jugheads should try to stay at club until 5:45 pm (9 pm for Ultimate) from now on. Please email or call Paul with absent kids (esp. for May 3 & 11) and kids leaving early from club rehearsals through May 12.

Q: How does the process of selling tickets work?

A: Formerly, the kids were the primary means of selling tickets. While there still will be an opportunity for kids to sell general tickets, half of the house will be sold as reserved seating online only. Keep posted; and once available, buy your tickets early!

Q: How will you communicate JJ13-related info.?

A: This monthly newsletter; a separate "Final Memo" in late April; and occasional emails to our group list will keep all parents and performers apprised of JJ13 info. Please contact Wendy if you're NOT receiving any emails from "[jughheads_parents]".

Coach Corner: Billy Watson

Throughout my 12 years in and around the sport of juggling, I've found that juggling and coaching are really a two-sided coin. The one always informs, improves, and completes the other. My experience taught me the importance of coaching for both the student and the coach.

Coaching juggling actually makes you a much better juggler. Your ability to see yourself juggle is necessarily limited. A coach has the benefit of being an outside observer; he or she can see problems with posture, alignment, and pattern height that a juggler can't. By learning to spot areas for improvement in others' juggling, you develop an



ability to troubleshoot your own juggling. When I began coaching, I was startled to see my students making the same mistakes that I did. On many occasions, I was gratified to say, "Ah, so that's why I was having trouble with that trick!" I know that I would never have reached the level of juggling proficiency that I did had I not also been a coach.

More importantly, coaching teaches a reason to juggle. In any athletic endeavor, the athlete is rarely conscious of why he does his sport. He knows that he does it for fun or for the thrill of competition or for athletic achievement, but he almost never stops to situate his sport within the larger arena of life. This latter function is the job of the coach. A good coach will not just help a juggler to achieve, say, a five ball record; he will also have an idea of why that achievement is significant for that particular juggler. Its purpose may be to increase the juggler's self esteem, to achieve a standard that will allow the juggler to move to a higher-ranked club where further opportunities await her, or perhaps even to push the boundaries of juggling skill and endurance so as to inspire both himself and onlookers. A good coach doesn't necessarily make such reasons explicit, yet the experience of coaching brings to light your own reasons for juggling. It was only after I had coached for years that I was finally able to see why juggling made the tremendous impact in my life that it did.

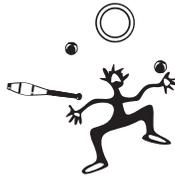
I write this column with my fellow coaches and assistants in mind, but it applies to our whole company. For, every juggler can be a coach. Of course, a novice can't teach the nuances of five club backcrosses to an expert, but he or she can give some insight into the two ball exchange to someone who has just picked up beanbags for the first time. Moreover, every juggler benefits from coaching. Coaching isn't merely altruistic; it's one of the best ways to improve your juggling and make your experience more meaningful. For my part, I know that I've learned as much through coaching jugglers as I have through juggling.

—Billy Watson: Jughead and Student Leader from 2000-2007; IJA Competitor from '02-'09; IJA Competition Coach from '04-'11; JH Coach from '08-'11.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Advanced Club

Cross-Section of the Company

Fittingly situated in the middle of the week, Advanced Club touches nearly all aspects of the Jughead experience. Whereas the minimum age (6th grade) and ability level (the advanced standards) make this club more exclusive than the three Rec. Clubs, Advanced still represents a great range of personalities, abilities, friendships, and leadership. With up to eight adult leaders and four student leaders any given week, Advanced has



oodles of opportunities for individual attention, yet places a particular emphasis on learning to pass proficiently with peers rather than *only* with the leaders. This year's JJ13 routine: "Super Bowl Commercials."

6th Annual EYJA Winter Showcase

March 18 (or 11), 7:30 pm; venue TBA

The 6th annual EYJA Winter Juggling Showcase is targeted for Friday, 3/18 at 7:30 pm (with 3/11 as a back-up date); we haven't confirmed a venue as of 1/7/11. (We'll email and post the info. online ASAP.) Sponsored by the **Edina Youth Juggling Association** via the **Edina Community Foundation**, this event is free and open to the public. The Showcase, advised by the JH coaching staff and assistants led by **Coach Billy Watson**, offers both a valuable performance experience and an entertaining show. Any polished solo or ensemble from any club is invited to perform. Prospective acts should inform Coach Billy by Fri., 2/4 (incl. song choice) **and** preview their routine for him by Fri., 2/25. The time limit for each act is four minutes; the cast will be contacted in early March. *NOTE: The EYJA Showcase is a pre-requisite for JJ13 auditions in April.*

JUGHEADS Community News

- **WELCOME WAGON:** Seven (7) new rookies joined for the Winter Session! Monday Club rookies are: **Eva H.** (4th grader), **Libby H.** (4th), **Sami L.** (4th), **Andrew L.** (3rd), and **Hunter L.** (3rd). Friday Club rookies are: **Taylor C.** (8th) and **Michael E.** (7th).
- **WINTER MEGA CAMPS** are from 9-5 pm on 1/17 & 24 led by Coach Billy. He encourages Showcase acts to attend! \$50 w/lunch; \$25 for half-day w/o lunch.
- **REMINDER:** Monday Rec. will NOT meet on 1/17, 1/24, or 2/21 (Edina release days). No camp is offered on 2/21.
- **MONDO Juggling & Unicycling Festival is April 1-3** at Concordia U. in St. Paul. Options to attend with JH are Friday (Adv-Ulti.) and Saturday (all levels). Look for reg. form in Feb.
- **THE IJA FESTIVAL** is July 18-24 in Rochester, MN. **A choice of two mandatory info. meetings will be held 1/27 and 2/1 at 6 pm in South Hall for anyone considering traveling with our group.** Email with questions.
- **ICE DAM REMOVAL:** Former JH dad **Tom Richter** says,

"Failure to mitigate ice dams can result in property damage and denial of benefits from 'negligent' inactivity regarding a claim." Contact Tom at 952-451-0100 or shinglecare@gmail.com for a 10% discount offered to JH families on this important service.

- **CONGRATULATIONS to Coach Billy Watson** for being accepted to the University of Chicago Law School! Billy's goals include graduating at the top of his class and eventually becoming a professor of jurisprudence (the philosophy of law).

Paul's Platform

"A Year of Milestones and Challenges"

Whew--just thinking about some upcoming events of 2011 is a daunting challenge. The 12 seniors make up the tied-for-largest graduating class. JJ13 has the glitch of an earlier Saturday start time (4:30) due to Edina's Prom. The IJA Festival is only 100 miles away for the first time in its 64-year history, promising more Jughead attendees and competitors (e.g., Ultimate Club, Jack Levy). Legendary Jughead and Coach Billy Watson graduates from college and heads off to law school, leaving a hole in the coaching staff (the filling of which is already being thoroughly explored). Despite all of these challenges and milestones, things for the "average" Jughead will go on as usual—and hopefully keep improving. Our sizable roster will still include kids for whom juggling is a huge priority in their lives, and others for whom juggling is a sideline hobby with less pressure than other areas in their lives and schedules.

As Director, I admit that sometimes I feel burdened with the feeling that I'm personally responsible for each person's experience here. However, one ingredient to this company's success hasn't changed since Day One: Generally speaking, what a child (or adult) puts into JH is what he or she gets out of it. By necessity, my direct role in facilitating and inspiring the average individual's experience has diminished over the years due to the sheer size of our roster and coaching staff. However, if I get my wish (prayer) for the new year, it'll be that the company will grow qualitatively even through the challenges of 2011. A new coach here; a new take on running our weekly clubs there; a new skit or trick or dance move for JJ13...all will hopefully contribute to furthering changed lives through juggling in a company with humble origins, grassroots perpetuation, and God's grace that has brought us safe thus far. Happy 2011!

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