



JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • Summer 2012

JJ14: LIVE-ly Entertainment!

“Never a dull moment” fueled by depth of talent

Two very trusted, objective, *long-term* supporters of Juggle Jam (JJ) independently noted that while certain aspects of technical juggling were lessened in this year’s production, the entertainment value actually *increased*. To that, this director says, “Hear! Hear!” JJ has always been designed to be *entertaining first* with technical skill as the *excuse*, and this year’s audience reactions reflected on our improving yet again on our “vaudevillian” show.

Our club routines are (by necessity) quite long due to the number of members, but the crowd reaction was gratifying, from **Game Shows to Viral Videos, Live Action News, The Lion King, SNL**, and a more character-driven U.C. routine, **“Cirque du Cascade.”** Our seven specialty acts mixed boys, girls and styles, from IJA Juniors hopefuls **Evan, Danny and Tom** to teams **TARP, Acceleranduo, The Jolly Walkers** and **Just 4 Show**. The three top coaches donned all white as live performers from the 70’s; the skits were thematic and energetic; and Wendy went to extra lengths compile and perfect her huge “routines,” the 2012 Senior Presentation and JJ14 Slide Show.

This director would like to once again acknowledge the amazing job the new coaches and mostly-new student leadership team has done since August to make this year so strong. Producer Wendy also has had the pleasure of closely working with many dedicated parent volunteers who give much time beyond the hoopla of our show nights. JJ is both an end in itself and a small sample of our entire company, and it blesses and moves us who have been around from the start to see so many people giving it their all to uphold and expand on this special tradition! Hooray for JJ14!!!

—NOTE: *We are grateful to God and you all to have been recognized by the seniors on behalf of the company on Closing Night. We’ll apply your gift to a hopeful adventure for our 20th anniversary next year! Love, Paul & Wendy*

Taking Center Stage: 2012-2013!

- **Fall 2012 Registration:** The enclosed form details the registration process for next school year. All clubs (except U.C.) will fill first-come, first-served starting **Wed., May 30**; Rec. Clubs open to **new** rookies on **Fri., June 15**—including siblings of current Jugheads’ and former Jugheads returning after a hiatus.
- **JJ15 Dates Set!** JJ15 is **May 17 & 18, 2013** at Hopkins HS; Dress Rehearsals are May 9 & 15. Note that our 1st Dress is on a **Thurs.**, not a Tuesday.



Officer Voice: Erica L.

Now that JJ is over, most of you feel excited to have finally completed the show and are now wondering what to do with yourselves. Perhaps you feel a bit of a letdown and are tempted to think that all your juggling efforts are done. This is not so! Summer camps offer many things to be gained in your juggling abilities as well as friendships. Ask nearly any Jughead who has attended summer camps and they will tell you that while at camp, they improved their skills, often more so than during the school year. Just as coaches and student leaders have said, “What you put into JJ is what you get out,” what you put into summer camps is what you get out.

Last summer was the first time that I really immersed myself in juggling camps. Few things are more trying than scrubbing an impossibly sticky puddle of cherry-red Icee off a table. Yet, there I was doing it. I’d already heaved open every window in the gym for circulation; helped two beginners (one extremely frustrated) with three balls; exhausted my arms helping kids onto globes; picked up armloads of props; promised a girl help with six-club passing; and spent quality time with some kids outside (chatting, minimal juggling, and lots of motivational prompting from me). Now as we finally sat munching snacks, we watched clips from past JJs and videos of famous jugglers. I smiled, knowing we had another 1.5 hours of progress to be made in juggling—and relationships.

You see, as I was “developing youth through juggling,” I, too, was being developed. Summer camps taught me much about patience, persistence, and the satisfaction of seeing someone else succeed. It was amazingly gratifying to witness kids reach goals and set records, whether qualifying three balls or getting 50 with five balls. My leadership skills were advanced by communicating in ways that aren’t enforced elsewhere. For example, Paul insists upon the use of the greeting “Hi, _____!” (fill in a name) as opposed to the generic “Hi” or a head nod. Something as simple as a personalized greeting helps campers feel welcome and leads to developing good relationships. I remember the special feeling at my first summer camp when world-class Jugheads said “Hi” to me by name. Now I try to do the same.

Last summer was full of hot, sticky, crazy, and very good days. Every afternoon, I walked down the gym steps I’d climbed each morning and felt content, knowing I’d positively impacted someone’s life. I might not know exactly how or when, but that doesn’t matter. What matters is that, as a teen, I can help other students experience the self-transformation that I’ve found through JH. On that note, I give a final farewell to the 2012 seniors; a welcome to new campers; and blessings to both, encouraging you as individuals to use the experiences you have had this year, and your entire JH career, to make the most of this summer.

Look for me at camps! I’ll be there every day, and I promise to try to greet you by name. —Erica L.: 3rd year Jughead, Officer, Friday Rec. Assistant, Advanced Member



Bulletins & Birthdays

- **SUMMER CAMP FORMS** are available on our website for our 5+ weeks of juggling camps (June 7-July 13; no camp on July 4).
- **ULTIMATE CLUB DRIVE-IN:** Sat., 6/30. Look for email.
- **THE EDINA PARADE** is 7/4, 9 am. Email Paul to sign up.
- **IJA-WINSTON-SALEM TEAM:** Keep posted for a send-off meeting July 10 or 11; final payment is due June 14.
- **EYJA JOGGLING MEET** is 7/7, 9 am. **Coach Chris Lovdal** will train kids at the Edina track on select afternoon camps (TBA).
- **Ben Arneberg** skydived, was commissioned 2nd Lt. by his grandpa, **Capt. Ron Arneberg** (ret.), and shook **President Obama's** hand before a thunderous flyover during three days of graduation festivities at the USAF Academy last week. Wendy & I dearly appreciate **Coaches Scott & Kelvin** leading clubs in our absence so that we could celebrate with our nephew and family.

Paul's Platform

"Origins: 20 Years of Youth Work in Edina"

June 1, 1992. Among the many significant dates in my memory, that is among my most precious. On 6/1/92, I officially began (and dedicated to the Lord) my career working with youth in & through Edina. Twenty-three years of my life led up to that day, and 20 have now followed, but that is a pivotal date in history for which I'm forever grateful, literally. Here's how I was led to that special date.

Upon a suggestion from my older brother, Jim, I decided in 8th grade to pursue the vocation of talk radio. A subsequent visit to WCCO Radio at the State Fair found me chatting on air with the legendary **Steve Cannon**, who advised me, "Broaden your mind with a four-year degree" before entering radio. Prepping for college, I invested in Ramsey/Roseville H.S. theatre, choir, a few sports, and lots of extended family time. I also maximized writing and speech classes through college, and I learned much about my faith and my talents through InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Varsity Men's Chorus, The Refreshment Committee Theatre Company, and Bethlehem Baptist Church while at the U of MN.

In other words, although I had a focused career goal, I took a well-rounded, circuitous route to get there.

Some not-so-pleasant things also marked my adolescent road to my planned career in radio. Three of my four siblings moved far away. My mom died. Several close friends "left" me because they wanted to drink and I didn't. To this day, I struggle against a fear of rejection, but such experiences have actually shaped my strong will to be an individual yet make others feel welcome, insofar as it's up to me to provide both a role model and a hospitable atmosphere to those under my influence.

By the time I finished college and an internship at 'CCO, my only radio offer was part-time, out-of-state, and \$4.50/hour. To put it mildly, I felt God closing the door on that career. I worked as a data-entry temp. for three months, seeking the Lord for His will and direction for my life. Wendy was motivated, too; she routinely searched the Want Ads for me! (We'd been courting for 2.5 years.)

"Edina Youth Supervisor" was an ad that popped out at Wendy in 4/92, since she had so often heard me talk about my one summer of camp counseling in '89 (just before we began courting!). Fifty people applied; Edina KIDS Club Coordinator **Linda Sisson** sent me a thin letter. "Good," I said, assuming it was a rejection. "I don't have to pray about this anymore." On the contrary, the letter granted an interview, which led to a 2nd, which led to Linda's phone call: "I just think you'll thrive here." I wrote in my prayer journal, "Offered position at KIDS Club. God's call. I couldn't have left it more up to Him, and He gave it to me. Now, He will go before me, strengthen me, and sustain me. This is the ONLY WAY."

Now you know more about how my post-collegiate soul-searching (or rather, God-seeking) led to an unlikely change in career direction which set up this one-of-a-kind youth business that continues through God's grace, a complementary marriage, and your grassroots support. As for a key passage in my calling to youth work? This came to my mind the day of my 2nd interview: *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.* (Isaiah 40:30-31, KJV). To God be the glory!

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