

JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • January 2014

JJ16 Q&A for Rookie Families... ...and Reminders for Veteran Families!

Q: What is Juggle Jam?

A: Juggle Jam 16 (JJ16), **May 16 & 17 at 7 pm at Hopkins HS**, is the climax to our year, featuring all six clubs, skits, specialty acts, a Slide Show, and a Senior Presentation. Audiences are *surprised* with JJ's entertainment value and inspiration.

Q: Does my Jughead have to audition to be in JJ16?

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 JJ16?

A: The only *extra* rehearsals involving the entire company are the evenings of May 6 & 14. (NOTE: Tues., May 6 is a change from the previously announced 1st dress rehearsal date of Thurs., May 8.) All Jugheads should try to stay at club until 5:45 pm (9 pm for Ultimate) from now on. Please email, text or call Paul with absent kids (esp. for May 6 & 14) and kids leaving early from club rehearsals through May 15.

Q: How does the process of selling tickets work?

A: A link to purchase tickets will be available on jugheads.com. Stay posted for details; specific information on how to promote JJ16 and purchase tickets will be available in March.

Q: How will you communicate JJ16-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 JJ16 info. Please contact Wendy if you're NOT receiving any emails from "[jugheads_parents]".

EYJA: Supportive Catalyst for Kids

Non-profit widely enriches youth juggling

The **Edina Youth Juggling Association (EYJA)** was founded in 2005 by current president **Mr. Doug Watson** under the **Edina Community Foundation**, and its sole purpose is to promote youth juggling in Edina and in the surrounding communities. Annual "staples" of their grants include sponsorship or co-sponsorship of the EYJA Showcase, JUGHEADS Juggle Jam, the EYJA Juggling Meet, special guest instructors (for specialty act creation, group choreography, and/or technical expertise), equipment (to be used for Juggle Jam and for students to go out and teach juggling), and yard signs, introduced just last spring.



Last year, EYJA vice president **Mr. Rich Lovdal** spearheaded an EYJA vision to create an annual senior scholarship awarded to one or two juggling students in recognition of outstanding leadership, service, and/or excellence demonstrated in and through the art & sport of juggling. The \$500 scholarship(s) will be put toward post-secondary education or training. This year's scholarship(s) will be announced at the Showcase on March 21; current seniors should look for an email soon inviting them to apply!

The EYJA directly and indirectly supports *many* youth in juggling, and we're grateful as a company for collectively benefitting from the service of the board, funds from donors, and ideas to keep youth juggling fresh, exciting, and always *developing*.

9th Annual EYJA Winter Showcase

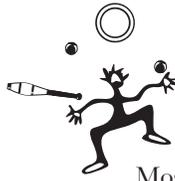
March 21, 7:30 pm at South View Theatre

The 9th annual EYJA Winter Juggling Showcase is set for Friday, 3/21 at 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the EYJA and led by the JH coaching staff and student leaders, the Showcase is free & open to the public and 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 Kelvin by Fri., 1/31 (incl. song choice)** and **pre-view their routine** for him by **Fri, 2/28**. Acts are encouraged to limit their routines to three minutes (3:00) or less; acts can go up to 4:00 with special permission. The cast will be confirmed by March 7. *NOTE: The EYJA Showcase is a pre-requisite for JJ16 specialty act auditions on 4/8 in the Wooddale-Edina gym.*

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Advanced Club

"Middle Child" club has deepest roots

In a recent coaches' meeting, Paul described Advanced Club as the "middle child" in our company: it's mid-week; the kids are far from beginners, but they're not collectively the best; they're mostly middle schoolers; and self-motivation is often moderate compared with Elite and even Rec. Clubs (at times!). Nonetheless, Adv. Club remains at the heart of our week, and at the heart of our history: Wednesday was the *only* club in our first spring show in 1995 (and it retained our best jugglers for those early years), and many legendary Jugheads started here, and sometimes stayed through graduation—such as world-class grad **Stefan Brancel** (Class of '10)! "Middle child" or not, Adv. Club remains a good testing ground of adolescents' resilience, character, and goal-setting to keep them striving for higher standards while having fun all along. For JJ16, Advanced will perform a "Minnesota State Fair." routine.



JUGHEADS Community News

- **WELCOME WAGON:** Two new rookies join us for the Winter Session: 2nd grader **Andrew B.** joined Thursday Rec., inspired by his big brother **Nick** (Monday Rec. 7th grader); and 4th grader **Addy C.** caught the juggling bug at our Thanksgiving Camp and has now added a new dimension to her life-long family friendship with Paul & Wendy. Another Jughead whom the Arnebergs have known since infancy is **Beatrice R.**, a 7th grader returning to Monday after a year-long hiatus, adding even more veteran status to that popular club.
- **WINTER MEGA CAMPS** are from 9-5 pm on 1/20 & 21, 2/18 & 3/8 anchored by Coach Paul but aided by Coach Stefan (1/20) and Coach Kelvin (1/21, 2/18). Showcase acts are encouraged to attend! \$65 w/lunch; \$30 half-day w/o lunch.
- **RELEASE DAYS REMINDER:** Monday Rec. will NOT meet on 1/20 or 2/17; Elite will NOT meet on 1/21 or 2/18. Camps are offered each day *except* 2/17 (Presidents' Day).
- **MONDO Juggling & Unicycling Festival is February 28-March 2** at Concordia U. in St. Paul. Options to attend with JH are Friday (1st 10 to register) and Saturday (up to 40 kids). Reg. forms will be available later in January.
- **THE IJA FESTIVAL** is July 27-Aug. 3 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. ***A choice of two mandatory info. meetings will be held 1/28 and 1/30 at 6 pm in South Hall for anyone considering traveling with our group.***
- **Next Officer Meeting:** 1/11, 9am-Noon @ Liddles'.

Paul's Platform: "Connections"

"When we started out together, he was only my brother in name...(then) I made a *connection*." That tender line was spoken by Charlie Babbitt describing a breakthrough with his brother Raymond in *Rain Man* (1988). We all need connections; it's a precious reality that is part of the mortar of a well-founded life.

Most often, connections with others don't just happen; they're cultivated, nurtured, developed. Sure, many people with similar (or complementary) personalities and "chemistries" can hit it off right away (whether in familial, platonic, romantic, or professional relationships), but even then, I can think of no relationships in the universe that continue "connecting" by chance in the long run. Our culture foisted on us the ubiquitous myth of "quality time" in the 90's. Although I don't know the source, I love the rebuttal: "Love is spelled 'T-I-M-E.'" It takes *quantity* time and *intentionality* to connect with others.

When my friend and Jughead dad Eric Rynders died last month, my initial devastated reaction yielded to sweetness by my recollection that for about six years, Eric & I saw each other through our mundanely-scheduled event called "HubClub." Wendy will attest that I didn't always have the best attitude going into our monthly Sunday evening gatherings, largely because my sphere of extended family, friends, and Jugheads makes for a busy social calendar. However, I sensed that for Eric, HubClub was a peer-based oasis in an often difficult lifestyle of battling his heart condition while managing his household so that Dawn could work, the three Rynders kids could be driven in any number of directions each day, and Bea could even be homeschooled for a year. For the most part, I overcame my short-sightedness while Eric was alive, and now that he's gone Home, I'm humbled that we were able to connect as friends in a unique way during what proved to be his last years on Earth.

When my 15-year-old nephew, Andre, died 11 years ago, it was my wake-up call to the (underestimated) effectiveness of working with youth. Eric's death has been a wake-up call in being content with career calling (again). For every single time I struggle with my lack of juggling tricks or passing prowess that limit my ability to coach, I have to remember that there are 100 opportunities to connect with kids here—connections that may appear mundane on the surface but that can be mutually life-changing and ultimately fulfilling of the 2nd greatest commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31)

Developing Youth Through Juggling Since 1994,

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