

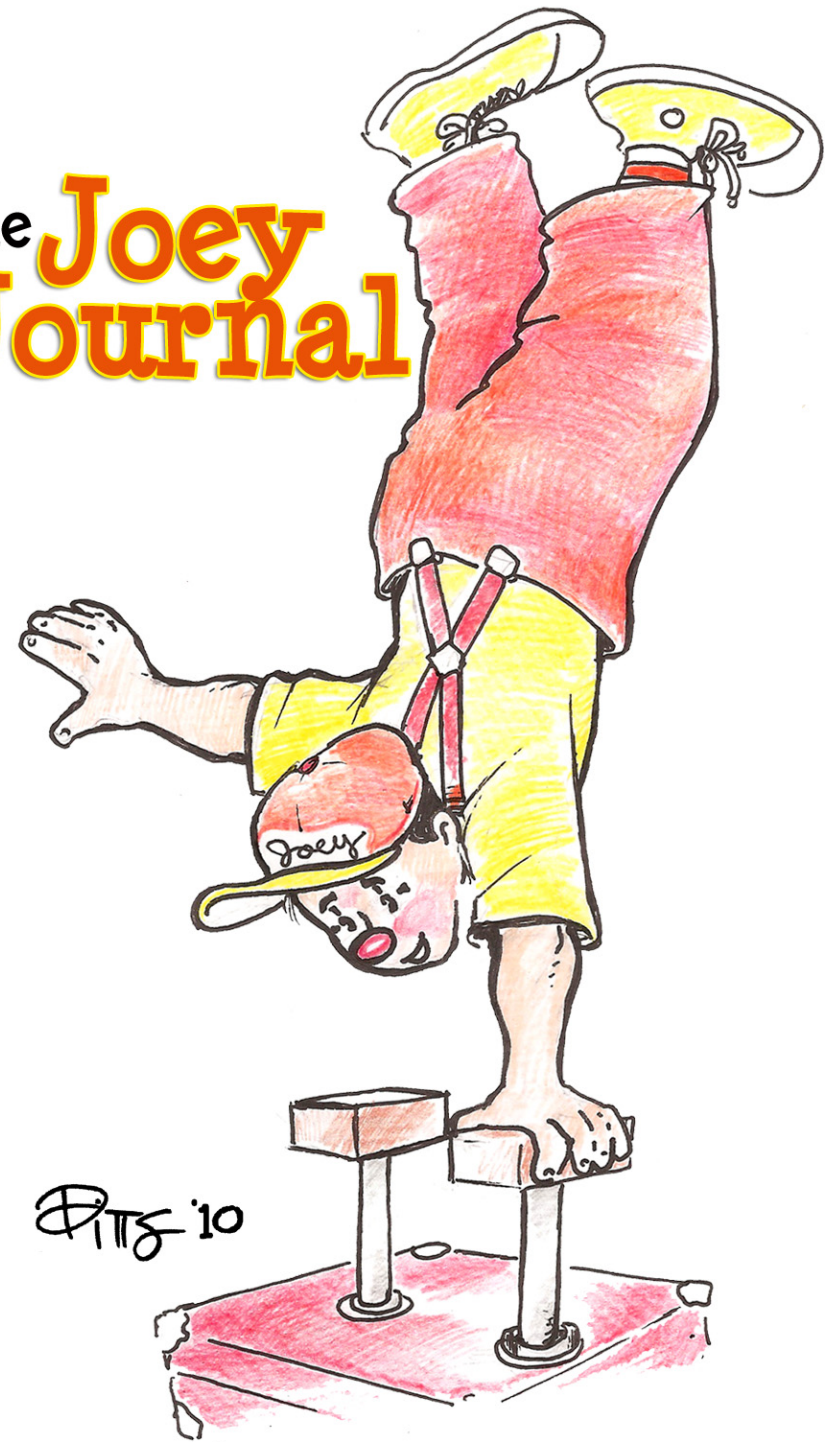
Probably the single most important question anyone has ever asked me in my development as a performer is; "Do you have an act?" In 1975, my friend Joey Matheson had just come off the Ringling show. He had been a clown with them since graduating from the first Clown College class in 1968. I had been clowning for about 4 years or so at that time, and I thought I was good. Joey was the first real pro I had spent any time with. He had a couple of steady local clown gigs to supplement his income while he was looking for work with another circus. He ended up getting booked on a mud show, but before he went out, he wanted me to look into taking over his steady gigs locally. Then he asked me the question...

"Do you have an act?" Well, sure I did, I did this thing where I dusted off the kids with my featherduster, and I could do a little juggling (very little), and I could.. um.. ride my unicycle in a circle, and I had a puppet... some balloon animals ... so, sure, I had an act, I guess. He invited me to come watch him work one day at the department store where he had one of his weekly engagements. He had a little circus ring set up, and he would gather an audience then begin with some three ball juggling, real dynamic, then clubs, some hat manipulation... clean, no drops, no mistakes, then he'd do some plate spinning, then he'd do the old tightrope bit with a lot of physical comedy, then he'd close with hand balancing. He had a heavy wooden suitcase he carried his stuff in, but it doubled as a stand for some hand balancing pedestals, and his grande finale was a one arm stand. It was a tight, funny, high energy presentation of the stuff Joey did well, worked into a great ten minute.... act. He had an act. That's what a professional act looked like. It was fast, well rehearsed, no dead spots, no struggling to remember the next line or bit of business. When I saw it I realized.. "I don't have an act" How could I have missed this fundamental thing? I wanted to be a pro, but I DIDN'T HAVE AN ACT! So I set to work trying to build an act, on MY skills, MY strengths, my original stuff and my own take on standard stuff. And in only a few years.. 20 or so, I had an act. It didn't look anything like Joey's act, because I have different strengths. The act is personal. It should grow and change with the performer, but it should remain, essentially, a unique and personal performance.

So, do YOU have an act?

David Pitts
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The Joey Journal



The Texas Clown Association
January - February 2010

THE JOEY JOURNAL

Published Bi-monthly for Members of
The Texas Clown Association, Inc.
Kay "Nannie Belle" Quittner, Editor
David Pitts, Cover Artist

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Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items may be mailed to *The Joey Journal*, 116 Nichols Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 or by sent by email to joejournal@yahoo.com. Only letters addressed to the Editor which are signed will be considered for publication. Submissions accompanied by a stamped envelope with return address will be returned after publication. Submitted photographs may be black and white or color prints; please, no slides, copies, or Polaroids.

Advertisements: Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Full page-\$50; half page-\$30; 1/3 page size \$20

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Clownified ads: Free to members if you have clown-related items for sale or donation. Vendor businesses not included.

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Membership and Dues	Regular Membership:	\$ 25.00
	Family (each add'l):	15.00
	Junior Membership:	12.50

Central membership mailing location: Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., P. O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053

Purpose of the Texas Clown Association

1. To promote, preserve, and improve the profession of clowning.
2. To provide the opportunity to study the art, history, and philosophy of clowning.
3. To educate its members and the general public in the wholesome and clean entertainment that is provided by the profession of clowning.
4. To provide news to the members of all clown events in the state of Texas.

WINTER ISSUE
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010

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A Word from the Prez.....

Here we are in start of a New Year and a new decade. I hope everyone has a wonderful year in 2010. We have some big things going on this year. First of all the COAI convention is in Houston in April. What a wonderful chance to better yourself as a clown. I suggest you start making plans to go because this opportunity does not come every year. Then September 29-October 3 in Granbury we have the TCA Convention. This will be the last TCA Convention in the fall for at least three years. This is also an election year for TCA and we are looking for a few good people to run for Office and lead our organization. Another thing I'm looking forward to at the TCA Convention is an evening with Leon and Oz. There will be more to come on this later.

Bump A Nose

Andy A.

****Website password: clowntown**

Clowns of America International Convention

Hobby Marriott Hotel in Houston, Texas
Tuesday, April 20 thru Sunday April 25, 2010.

What an AWESOME opportunity to:

- + Have oodles of fun!
- + Attend a selection of 50+ classes,
- + Attend or enter in makeup/costume, skits, balloons, face painting, & paradeability competitions
- + Attend a" Little Bit Country & Little Bit Rock n' Roll" fun filled costume party, complete with games, prizes & music
- + Make new friends from Germany, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada & of course from all over the USA
- + Attend COAI's special 25th anniversary party
- + Have oodles of fun!!
- + Attend an star studded special awards banquet
- + Morning & late evening hospitality rooms
- + Impromptu balloon & face painting jams
- + Rock out with the Blues Brothers
- + Oh and did I forget to mention---have oodles of fun!!!!!!

Here is a list of some of our lecturers, many who are also dealers: Andy Anderson, Angel Morales, Bill LeBlanc, Cheri-Oats, Mr. Sunshine, Daisy, Dave Hill, Dana Hill, Ickle Pickle, Bubba Sikes, Jean Kuecher, Mike Spiller, Pat Newton, Paula Biggio, Pricilla Mooseburger, Ralph Dewey, Ron Poindexter, Sharon Hodges, Peachey Keene, Dubble Bubble, Roly, Hotdog, Tommy E Boy and others.

Words of Wisdom:

- ◆ Invite your friends & family members interested in clowning to register to attend.
- ◆ Invite someone to share your hotel room expenses [costs are \$99 per night with 1- 4 people per room].

- ◆ Invest in your clowning--attend as many classes as possible, taking notes & photos.
- ◆ Expand your confidence by participating in hands-on classes.
- ◆ Consider entering a competition for the first time with the support of friends.
- ◆ Make "new friends" by inviting others to share your table at lunch or dinner.
- ◆ Plan to stay at our host hotel so you can pace your energy for the entire week of fun!
- ◆ Try to get some beauty sleep after jamming or visiting into the wee hours.
- ◆ Attend the theme party in costume---share your ideas, table and fun with others
- ◆ And most important---enjoy absolutely every moment of the total experience!

The last Houston COAI convention was back in 1995, 15 years ago, so what a rare treat we are offering our Texas friends! I guarantee, it will be a week of fun experiences that you will share with your clown friends & family and will talk about for the next 15 years!!! *Just ask those of us who have been around forever and are anxiously counting the minutes until April 20th.....*

Please check our COAI convention website: <http://www.coai2010houston.com/>

Additional questions: contact Cricket at junecricket@sbcglobal.net or Patticake at pcake-gilbert@comcast.net.

Do not let this opportunity pass you by! Make plans now to "Come Play & Learn in Houston!"

TRYING TO STAY ORGANIZED

Is the focus on TRYING or ORGANIZED? Either way, I have come up with something that works for me.

I have several different outfits I use in my clowning. Some are just for conventions, others are for nursing homes and children's shelters. Others I use for birthday parties, and paid events.

Thanks to all the clothing vendors, my sewing capabilities, and retail stores, I have many accessories to be used for my clowning outfits.

I use 3 x 5 lined index cards to keep me focused on what I need for each outfit. Each line has a specific item of clothing or accessory. For instance, on my first line I always write VEST, since that is the key word for each of my outfits. I write in the description of the vest on this line. On the next line - I write down PANTS - followed by the description of the pants I wear with this particular outfit. Each following line has a specific item of clothing or accessory which goes with this outfit, i.e., SHIRT, SOCKS, SHOES, BIB/BUTTONS, HAT, WIG, BADGES, GLOVES, NOSE. I find it easy to keep the cards in a file box. This helps me know where the cards are at all times.

If you don't wear pants and vest, just fill in the lines

with your dress, belt, socks, shoes, petticoat, wig, hat or bow, badges, gloves, nose, etc.

When getting ready for a gig, I just pull the card and go down the line and pull from the closet all the items on the card. That way I have all the items ready for the gig. This also helps a lot when I am packing for a convention or any away from home function. That way I don't forget anything.

I have a similar card with props I need for certain skits or performances I perform on a regular basis.

Hope this will work for you, I know it has helped me to get organized and be less frustrated when I am in a hurry.

Dale PATCHES Flashberg
TCA South/Central Area Director
patches@gvtc.com

COMPUTERS AND CLOWNING - *Digital Tips and Techniques*

In this new, relatively speaking, digital age there may be times when such new high-falutin technology just might be applicable to a venerable art such as clowning. When such a technique crosses my mind - and if I remember to jot it down before I forget, then I will share the same with you.

I remember when I went to clown school, near the beginning of the classes, we were given drawings - like the ones found in coloring books - of a generic face. There were several "face shapes" to choose from. With these "color the face" sheets we were instructed to try and draw our "clown face" as a way to make some progress before trying to paint our own face. The problem that I found with this is that a generic face just doesn't show the facial features that are unique to an individual - the very features that one may want to use in developing a clown face. It just didn't work for me—but fortunately our instructor (Danny Kollaja) was really great at helping us find our face.

Now most of us have a "face" that we are happy with (or at least using) - but what about developing a new character or face? What can we do to help this process along? Is a computer useful? I think it may be, especially if you have (or have access to) a digital camera. So here is my tip.

Get someone to photograph your face with a digital camera - use the zoom if the camera has one. You want as much as your face as possible in the picture - and nothing else. All face - as one might say. This can be easily downloaded into a computer (most by direct connection through a USB cable, or plugging the card into a card reader). Now that you have your face in the computer you have options!!

The easiest is to print the picture, as is. If you have a color printer you can print in color or in black and white. You would want to print on "card stock" or if your printer can't print paper that heavy (and most can) at least something heavier than everyday copy paper. What is important is that the paper is not too porous so your makeup—or watercolors (or whatever) don't bleed.

Now you have your own personalized "face" that you can use for designing that new character. This works even better if you have several pictures - showing different expressions - especially "eye expressions." This may help you find where your "expressive facial muscles" are...these are the areas that you may want to augment for that great clown face.

Now, if you are fairly comfortable with a computer, and have time to burn....then you can even do some design on board. Most computer software (even the stuff that came with your computer) includes a basic (which can do quite a bit) "paint" program. For example, if you are running a Windows based computer, you can go to your start menu, highlight "All Programs" and then highlight "Accessories." About midway down the list that pops up under accessories you will find "Paint." Double click and you are in the Paint program. You can then import your photo - and experiment. Just remember, before you do anything, perform a "save as" to create a new picture file (that way, if anything happens, you still have the original). There are lots of great tools for drawing lines and circles - and you can choose colors!! It is a "high tech" way to create a new face.

On page 17 you will see a terrible example, I know computers, but an artist, I'm not. But I took a portrait photo and clowned it up.

CSI - Granbury

September 29 through October 3, 2010

As President of Cowtown Alley in Fort Worth, I want to invite *All Texas Clowns* to be a part of the 2010 TCA Convention, Clowns Seen Investigating - Granbury. This year Cowtown is hosting the state convention in Granbury, TX at the Granbury Resort Conference Center. Granbury is West of Fort Worth about 37 miles on Hwy. 377. It is a great destination for vacation and fun.

The Granbury Resort Conference Center is a beautiful facility. If you are able to come early or stay late the town has The Opera House and Granbury Live for live entertainment and lots of antique shops/malls in the area and near by Glen Rose has The Promise, Fossil Rim, The Exposition Center, and real dinosaur tracks.

Convention plans include instructors such as Leon Mc Bride, Ralph Dewey, and that is just the beginning.

This year's facility will not be attached to a hotel, but there is easy access to either recommended hotel. We will be holding evening Hospitality and Jams in a room provided in the La Quinta, so we strongly advise you to make reservations there. Cowtown requests that Texas Alleys willing to host, co-host or donate to the Hospitality Jam contact the Hospitality Coordinator Lana Sue Fridge, 817-577-0318 or joyfulthec clown@att.net.

Best Western in Granbury is affiliated with the La Quinta and both hotels are offering a nightly rate of \$79. Just mention the code: TCA2010, to connect with the discounted rate. The hotels are within 4-5 blocks of each other to make the Jams easily accessible from either one. Both hotels will offer full breakfast and a light dinner within that \$79 rate, so if you plan to pack in a bedroll person there's a \$10 charge to pay for their meals. The included meals along with the Banquet and Sunday Brunch included with registration will help with expenses for the convention time.

The nearest RV park in the area is Bennett's RV Ranch, 817-279-7500, Country Side RV Park, 817-573-7539 is on Hwy 377 but not as accessible to the conference center. Each registered Convention attendee will receive a map featuring available eating establishments and helpful merchants ready to meet sudden needs of the competitor or family member. If individuals plan to fly in and are interested in sharing rental car expense or coordinating with others flying in, please contact Andy Anderson, 817-282-3339. He can put you in contact with each other or make other suggestions for helping people to get to Granbury.

Since the convention facility will be a separate facility, Cowtown will provide secured prop storage for competition days (for access just see registration desk). The Conference Center is a beautiful facility with a boardwalk at the back along the lake and exclusive parking for convention attendees.

Our Junior Joey Program will be focused on Saturday and taught by Andy Anderson and John Luce. Since we have a one-year lapse in the summer convention dates, novice classes will be held other days for beginning clowns of all ages. Other than Saturday, competition will be beginning after a generous lunch break to all clowns preparation time after morning classes.

Vendor rooms will be available Wednesday eve and between all classes.

We want to invite all members to support our program book with personal ads or business ads and the form is included in this Joey Journal. Also, if you have not registered, you'll want to do that soon to take advantage of the early discounted rates and you're going to want this t-shirt. Get your order in EARLY!!! We look forward to seeing you in Granbury.

Peggy Barton

2010 TCA Convention Ad Sales

3221 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, TX 76049

Program Chairperson, Peggy Barton 817-894-1115

Convention dates September 29, 2010 through October 3, 2010

Purchaser name _____ Phone _____

Purchaser address _____

____ Customer copy ____ Treasurer copy ____
program copy ____ map copy

Ad sizes & rates: circle price for all that apply

******Make checks out to: TCA Convention 2010******

Business card - map only - \$ 25 Select position # on map _____

Business card map when purchasing program book ad - discount
price ---- \$15

Business card program book ----- b/w \$15 -----
Color N/A

$\frac{1}{4}$ page program book ----- b/w \$25 -----
Color N/A

$\frac{1}{2}$ page program book ----- b/w \$50 -----
Color N/A

1 page program book ----- b/w \$75 -----
Color \$100 a b c d

We encourage a coupon ad for map.

Attach business card ad

See Attached sheet for larger ad.

If additional time needed for large ad,
please, forward to above address within 30
days of purchase.

Total due date of purchase _____

Authorizing signature _____ Date _____

2009 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2010 BUDGET

CATEGORY	2009 Budget	2009 Actual	2010 Budget
INCOME			
Dues	7,000.00	5,479.5	5,625
New Alley Fees	0	25.00	
Bank Interest	750.00	813.47	325.00
Convention Profit	2,000	*5,644.24	2,500
Convention Seed	1,000.00	0	0
Sales	0.00	265.00	0
JJ Advertising	400.00	50.00	300.00
Other	0	38.00	0
Total Income	11,150.00	12,315.21	8,750.00

2009 Convention profit includes the money received from the 2008 convention as well as the 2009 (due to date money was received). Thus the 2009 Net for the year (Income minus expenses) was well above budget at \$4,311.38. Even with low income from reduced membership, and subtracting the extra convention TCA did well. We do need to get the membership back up, or we become too dependant on convention profit. The 2010 budget leaves \$83.00 margin on income over expenses.

CATEGORY 2009 Budget 2009 Actual 2010 Budget

EXPENSES			
Board Expense	1,500.00	1,404.30	1,500.00
Convention Expense	1,800.00	820.20	1,000.00
Convention Seed	1,000.00	1,000.00	0
Insurance	600.00	500.00	600.00
JJ Editor	100.00	0	0
JJ Postage	1,000.00	805.10	1,000.00
JJ Printing	2,400.00	2476.66	3,600.00
JJ Supplies	300.00	431.00	0
Postage	250.00	3.09	50.00
Office Expenses	1,000.00	527.48	100.00
P.O. Box Permit	56.00	36.00	75.00
Printing - Other	200.00	0	0
Education Committee	500.00	0	500.00
Area Director Packs	100.00	0	100.00
Legal/Tax Exempt	200.00	0	0
Website	142.00	0	142.00
Total Expenses	11,148.00	8003.83	8,667.00

The TCA Bank Balance as of December 31, 2009, was \$28,289.26. Because of the poor interest rate, the bulk of the money is in a money market account, with enough left in the checking to cover expenses.

David Thomason
Photographer
of
Entertainers

817-738-4257
tstudio@mesh.net
<http://dtstudio.smugmug.com>



Next JJ Deadline is April 1, 2010

TCA Minutes and past Joey Journals

may be found on our website at



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photos

2009 DATES to NOTE

COAI Annual Convention—April 20-25, 2010 in
Houston, See Article on page 4

TCA Annual Convention—September 29—October 3,
2010—See article on page 10. Send in you application
NOW.

Results and Discussion:

Last Year's Computer Survey

Although this article is a bit late, it comes under the rubric of "better late than never." When the membership renewal forms went out last year the forms included a computer use survey. One of the purposes of the survey was to see whether or not the membership was ready or willing to receive the Joey Journal (and other material) by some form of electronic means. Since the survey went out with the membership renewal forms, the response was excellent; and in addition to the responses to the questions, a number of interesting written comments were received.

Before I go any further I need to make a disclaimer. Except for the information and data from the survey, much of the analysis is based on MY PERSONAL opinion, colored (at least in one place) by my personal views on education and education's effect on current society. That means these opinions ARE NOT the opinions or views of the Board, either as a group or individually. You would need to talk to each Board member individually to get their opinion. Nevertheless, some of the issues that I will raise need to be considered and discussed. It doesn't matter (even to me) if one agrees with my views - it is the underlying issues that are important. So consider this a starting point.

Now back to the survey. What did we learn? First, we learned (and this has nothing to do with the particular survey) that sending a survey with membership renewal was a great way to get some meaningful response, enough to be statistically relevant. The survey showed that 85.7% of the members who responded either have a computer or have access to one. Those willing to receive the Joey on a

CD numbered 44.6% and 30.4% were only willing to receive a print edition. Seventy-three percent were even willing to cut back to four issues rather than change or pay higher dues. Other than computer ownership no clear trends.

The Board reviewed the numbers and discussed their various implications. It was the general consensus that such a drastic change as going to an electronic form of the Joey would do more harm than good. Also, at this time finances are good. TCA takes in more money than it spends, and we have a good cushion. There will be no change at this time.

A number of written comments were of the order that I like to take my Joey with me when I travel (easy to carry and read), or I want to curl up under the light and read, and so on. Magazines and booklets are great for this - but with the new technology you can have, albeit not quite the same, a similar experience. Devices like Kindle and especially the new Ipad are revolutionizing the digital book industry. Much like CD's did for the old vinyl records (yes, I loved my records, and still have a few - but CD's are so much better) the new digital readers - which are small, light, and so far a little expensive - are doing the same for the printing and book industry. If you think about it (even if you have absolutely no intention of ever having one) an Ipad (or similar) can not only hold your current Joey but you could carry every one you ever owned, along with your Calliope and World Clown - in one small package, nearly as easy to carry as a Joey.

The above paragraph, however, really speaks primarily to our current membership, it doesn't address some important, related issues. First let us consider these questions: Why do we print the Joey? What is its purpose? Who is the audience? Then we must think about: What does the

Joey say about TCA? Can it, or will it, help us recruit new members? Finally: Who would we like to reach? How do we accomplish this? These are the types of questions that ALL organization need to be asking (if they want to survive). How the issues are addressed will directly effect how well the organization survives in the digital age (yes, like it or not, we are there and it's not going away). Before making further comment on this, I want to digress a bit.

Most of us have heard the mantra: the strength of our Church (or, for our purposes, organization) is in the youth. TCA diligently works at providing junior joey programs during convention, but this is once a year. What else can we do? First (and this will get a few of you on the edge of your seat) we need to look at how the upcoming generation learns. They have spent, and are spending, years (at least in public schools) being taught to the test. A rather narrow approach to education that at best teaches one to focus solely on a particular short term project, absent critical thinking skills, and in most cases failing to impart a real thirst for reading and knowledge - with all this being constantly reinforced by television and video. It is an entirely different approach to education than I (and I suspect most of you) experienced. I am not saying this to criticize our public education system, but to focus on how most younger people are learning, which, by the way, is sometimes quite effective. One of the ways they are learning (and many of us have picked up on this) is by watching, through video - especially sources like YouTube - someone else do it (and watching it over and over again).

I think about how I learned some of my clowning skills. I read a lot of books, but sometimes they weren't enough. For example, I have a number of Ralph Dewey's balloon

books, well written and easy to follow. However, if I hadn't attended a couple of his classes there is a lot I would have never been able to do - and probably would have given up. On the other hand, DVDs are great (at least if they are well made). You get to watch, stop, back up - you can really learn. More importantly, for this discussion, that is how the younger generations are learning - nearly everything.

By now you're asking, OK what does that have to do with the Joey and this article. My answer is a lot. One of the problems - in the modern digital age sense - with a printed journal is that it is static. Mostly black and white (although we can do more color now) but static. An electronic publication is an entirely different matter. They don't have to be static - and the better ones aren't. They have embedded video - not a how to article - but a how to video. One of the best examples that I have seen is one of the sites used by water color artists:

www.artistsnetwork.com/artistsmagazine/ Lots of color and lots of how-to video.

We may not be ready to go there yet. But at some point - especially if we want to grab, and hold on to, the younger generations - we will need to break form and change our outreach. It may be the Joey or it may be on our website, Facebook and other similar places. And that may be the place to start by adding to what we have, but at some time soon, start we must.

This is my opinion, but I'm stickin' to it!!

Andy "Banjo" Quittner



TCA Website Password: CLOWNTOWN

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