

June - July 2014



The Joey Journal

The Texas Clown Association



Spark in the Park

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THE JOEY JOURNAL

Published Bi-monthly for Members of
The Texas Clown Association, Inc.
Greg “Zoots” Stanford, Editor

Letters to the Editor, articles and other related items should be emailed to greg@joeyjournal.com or addressed to The Joey Journal and mailed to 1818 11th St., Wichita Falls, TX 76301. 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, or copies. The preferred format is a digital copy in the “jpg” or “png” format.

Advertisements: Advertisements must be prepaid and camera ready. Rates: Back cover - \$80.00; Inside back cover - \$70.00; Full page - \$70.00; 1/2-page - \$40.00; 1/4 page size - \$25.00; and a business card size ad - \$10.00 an issue.

Multiple placement discounts on ads are 5% for 3-5 editions and 10% for six editions. Payment must be received in advance.

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

Publication deadlines: On or before Dec. 1, Feb. 1, April 1, June 1, Aug. 1 and Oct. 1. Articles can be sent to greg@joeyjournal.com in the body of your email or in Word, Pages, or PDF format.

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.

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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.

From the President

by Diana “Buttons” McCurtain-Talbert

Hey there TCA clowns, I hope you all are continuing to clown your little, happy hearts out. I have had more opportunity to clown in the last few months than I have had in a while. It's been great to put my nose on and get out there to have some fun. But, let me tell you about a lesson I learned. I received a last minute call for a two hour birthday party... I accepted the job, and sent her a letter of agreement. I usually follow up with a call and review that agreement the day before or the day of the event, first thing in the morning. I didn't do that this time because I had received the job so close to the date, that I thought I remembered the details... I didn't. I was supposed to be there at 3pm. At 3:30 while I was putting on makeup, she called and asked if I was coming. I was devastated and felt awful. My son who clowns with me sometimes, looked at me as I was talking with her, and went into high speed gear to finish his makeup. We threw our stuff in the car and flew to the event. Fortunately, she was very gracious and forgiving. I offered to do the event at half the cost, which she did not accept. She paid me pretty much my standard rate, and even told me she wanted me back next year. What I learned was to never take for granted that I know what I'm supposed to be doing. I have my tools for a reason. And you can bet going forward, I will use them.

Now, on to less humiliating things. We are continuing to make progress on the convention. We went out last month to

look at the space again, and set about deciding where the classes, vendors, hospitality and jams would be. Pretty exciting stuff! We have met our room block! Thanks to those of you who have reserved your rooms. And we are close to 100 registered as I write this article. This convention has the potential to be a really great time... What I need from each of you is to talk this up. Invite your friends who have not been to TCA. Encourage them to try it this time. They will likely love it and come back for more! In our next journal we should have more details about some of the things we have planned for our members and their families who join them in the beautiful hill country. We are hoping to have some fun activities planned and are working to get some “touristy” information out to everyone on things to do in the area. More to come on that.

Later in this journal you will see some information for our ad contest. Please submit your ads to Greg (greg@joeyjournal.com) for inclusion in our Convention program.

Til next time,
Buttons



Do You Have Customer Service in Your Clowning?

by Olivia Adamson

Are you customer service oriented in your clowning activities? Is it necessary? Is it something to consider? Some of these questions you might ask yourself as a clown or entertainer. Some of you may realize its important and some may ask yourself, why is it important? Well, I feel like we live in a customer service world, where the customers are always right and the service received is #1 of our list to provide. After all, our reputation is on the line, right? At times, I feel like we live in a Walmart world, and what I mean is, if we aren't satisfied, we can take it back or get our money back, no questions asked. We, the customers, are always right.

In the entertainment business, we need to be of that mind set of our audience being our customers, and we the clowns providing that service. Whether we are in the hospital as volunteer clowns, or at a paid event, we must be aware of who our audience is and view them as our customers. We should always be aware of not offending people, being courteous, kind, and polite when we come into contact with our audiences.

At times, I have experienced parents pushing their kids into my personal space as a clown, and I politely remind them that clowns are not

to be forced upon when there is a fear of a clown's presence. I perceive both the child and the parents as my customers, and the last thing I want is to disappoint my customers. I try to ease into or out of the situation and/or circumstance depending on what's going on, but always considering a positive outcome of my customer's experience.

I've never experienced someone asking for their money back, and I hope I never do. I wanted to bring the customer service experience to the attention of us as entertainers and to remind us as clowns that we need to always consider who are customers are.

Some of TCA clowns utilize clowning as their full time income for supporting their families. Customer service is huge on their list as well as, customer satisfaction. It is very important for their customers to be 100% satisfied. What they provide for entertainment for their customers is their #1 priority.

Whether you clown for monetary means, or volunteer with your fun entertainment activities, please consider your audience and remember to provide that customer satisfaction experience for them as positive and meaningful as possible!

TCA Clown Alleys

Panhandle / West Region

Oops Alley - TCA #2

North Central Region

Cowtown Clowns - TCA #9

Happi Tymes Clown Alley - TCA #12

The Clown Arounds - TCA #16

North East Region:

Tejas Klown Club - TCA #1

Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley - TCA #13

Payasos Latinos de America - TCA #23

Cedar Creek Clowns - TCA #24

South East Region

Space City Clown Alley -TCA #6

Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11

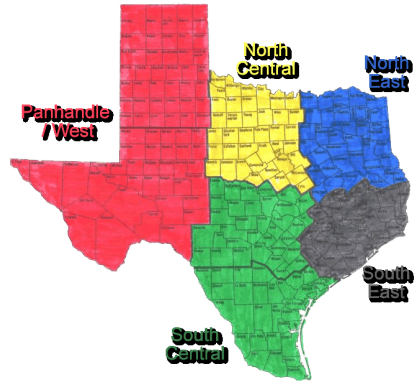
Cheerful Clown Alley - TCA #14

Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18

South / Central Region

Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA # 19

The Clown Alley - TCA #15



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Conventions: Making Heart to Heart Connections

by Aurora “Bebop” Krause, TCA Education Director

There are many clowning conventions held every year throughout the United States and around the world. As a longtime member of WCA, COAI and TCA I know that conventions are opportunities to expand our knowledge, buy new props and see great performers. But as a seasoned convention attendee I have to tell you that for me conventions are also about heart to heart interactions. For all the technology available today (Internet, Facebook, etc...) I believe we continue to desire and learn more when we're face to face with others and allow our hearts to connect and become involved.

Consider attending this year's TCA convention in Kerrville and be ready to be inspired, energized and yes educated. Every aspect of this

convention will offer these opportunities. Allow yourself to connect to the bigger picture by keeping an open heart and staying open to interactions with fellow attendees. Take every opportunity to become involved in conversations with others, everyone is there to meet new clowns, they will be lucky to meet you and you will be glad to meet them.

I'm sure you're thinking that there are less expensive ways to connect with fellow clowns. However, when there's an opportunity to attend a clown convention close to home, we should be motivated by our heart's desire to share our passion by gathering with old and new friends and together learning more about the "Art of Clowning".

If you're considering following



your clown heart then plan on being in Kerrville, Oct. 1st thru 5th for this year's TCA Clown Convention hosted by San Antonio's Jolly Joey Clown Alley. Keep this list below handy or at least give it a quick glance before arriving in Kerrville this October.

--- Take time to enjoy old friends and strive to make new ones by being interested in their goals and their stories.

--- Meet every instructor face to face, allow yourself to be inspired by their knowledge and their passion for the "Art of Clowning".

--- Attend the evening's events and introduce yourself to those performers you admired most, be energized by their performance.

---In the vendor's room ask vendors' questions about your favorite prop or magic trick, browse the beautiful wigs and costumes and

enjoy all the toys and treasures that every vendor has to offer.

Make plans on being at the TCA-2014 convention in Kerrville; you'll have a wonderful face to face learning experience and a heart to heart adventure into the world of clowning.

I welcome your input on this topic. Keep A Smile On!!!!....

Visit Bebop at: < www.bebop-world.com >



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PARADE ABILITY

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Are You in the Knows of Your Nose?

by Martha “Miss Cookie” Warren

They say only the “Nose Knows” but what does a nose really know? I like to be in the knows so I can help others know!!! But what if you lose your nose??? Do you lose your way? Is there a chance you just don’t know?

Oh my, that’s what happened to me...not once, not twice, but three times! I lost my nose!

I was doing a party last year June and it was so humid. My party mom told me I would be inside, until I arrived, I discovered she had everyone outside...including me!!! She must of lost the “knows” of our conversation!

Being a very non-confrontational clown, flexible, and learned as a child to do what I was told, I went outside. She did have a pop up tent NEXT to me...Yep, NOT over me! Ok, now I understood...She was not in the “Know” of what happens to clown’s Noses in 102° temps! Neither did I, actually, as I started my show...Oh My! It was humid! I’ve never been so hot, and oh, how I begin to sweat a lot!!! Then my “flower nose” started slipping off my nose! In 15 years of clowning I knows this was not good...as it fell to the ground, Gaboom! It’s never happen before! Finally it just wouldn’t stay on and I didn’t want to lose it so it wound up in my pocket, with my toys and little locket. I also

keep my little duster there; not at all aware that my nose would despair! I was so glad this party was over; my “flower nose” was still in my pocket, knowing it was safe and protected from the humidity, we departed.

Cooling down at home I thought about my nose. Oh my, my nose is it still among my clothes? I went to my pocket and the nose was gone! What? Wait! It was there before I left the party. Does the nose knows where it goes? I checked the car, I checked my stuff, I checked everywhere in a huff! After enduring all that heat and sweat...to a clown, loosing your nose is like loosing your pet!!!

The next week, getting ready for another party, long and behold, there was my “flower nose”! It was stuck on the duster I had taken out of my pocket along with my toys and little locket. My “flower nose” knew it wasn’t lost! It has no mind, it has no care; just the fate of the nose, it knew it was there.

The second time was in August during convention. Our group was hurriedly getting ready for competition. My “flower nose” was with me again. I sat it on the bathroom sink as I primped and grinned. When I went back it was gone! Aghast, not again...I had lost my grin! Everyone helped me look everywhere, but it wasn’t to be found, it’s not anywhere.

Luckily Posie shared her spare; “just don’t blow in it she instructed with a sneer!” The show must go on, but does the nose know where it goes, again? We came back to the room looking and looking, and even said a prayer to Saint Anthony, being the patron of lost despair: Tony, Tony look around--There’s something lost that must be found--If I find it, it’s because of You! And believe it or not, a week later I found this nose stuck on the bottom of my rubber crock shoe! It journeyed home with me in secret you see, the nose knew it was there, but not me. So Clowns don’t think your nose knows nothing...like a child it’s playing hide-n-seek and will only appear when IT wants to peek!

I’m feeling comfortable my flower nose reappeared---tattered, and battered, the pedals all smeared. I cleaned it up and reapplied some paint...it was good as new thanks to the Saint!

Two weeks later I was getting ready for another party...applied glue to my nose and left it alone... only to come back to find it gone! Three times is a charm, it has always appeared, with time running out, party time was near! Play it forward

happy endings are in the making, I can feel my nose nearby just a shaking...with a grin, a laugh, a wiggle, a sneer; where are you nose, I know you are near????!!! How can this be, I wear it proudly can’t IT see? Oh, of course not, it’s only a nose. Made of latex, rubber, goodness sakes, who knows? Again, I searched everywhere trying to think as if I was in the knows of my nose! Ugh! I found an old one, to the party I goes... without my little flower nose!

It has never reappeared as I suspected it would. I still look around as if it should. One day I will be cleaning here or there, moving something, or picking up a chair... and there it will be, just hanging around, looking right at me knowing it’s found. I’ll pick it up, clean it off again, and put it on with a big ole grin!!! But I’m yet to live that part of the story...it’s a vision in the future, a clown’s true glory! Only the nose knows where it goes... But that doesn’t keep a happy clown down...thank goodness for Kudos, he’s right in town...I bought a new flower nose, because it has a story... just ask me some day, I’ll share it gladly... and will not tarry!

Please Welcome these new TCA members -

TIFFANI GOODIN - FANCI of Trinity TX

STEVE COX of Big Spring TX

MATTHEW SPRAGGINS - SODA-POP McBOP of Rockwall TX

Spark in the Park

by Greg “Zoots” Stanford

On May 24 the Wichita Falls community was treated to a gaggle of clowns from the DFW area who drove up to join The Clown Arounds alley for a memorable time on Memorial Day weekend.

Martha Warren, the North Central TCA Area Director, had offered to bring the group to help spark more interest in clowning in Wichita Falls. After a few emails back and forth the date was selected, and a plan was made.

Setting up across from the swimming pool in the city’s largest park, some 20 clowns setup shop to donate balloons, face painting and plenty of laughs for anyone who stopped by.

Families started showing up and they stuck around making their way around the group, not wanting to miss any of the fun. Kids and adults left with fun face paint and arms full of balloon creations.



together for a yummy BBQ dinner.

The Clown Arounds of Wichita Falls & Miss Cookie wish to thank UlgUlg, Sherry-Rainbow the Clown, Bill-CornyDog, Bonnie-PeekaBoo, Judith-Freckles, Carolyn-SugarLump, James-Pepper, Mary-MaryCanary, LJ-Wiggles, John-John, Rhea-Sweet-Pea, Andy-Smiley, Debbie-Posie, Jeanette-Dusti, Peggy-MinnieMustard-Seed, Scott-Checkers, Amy-Miss Owl for coming down to help out (hope we didn’t leave anyone out). Not only did you spark the city but you renewed our spark in clowning also.



One group of clowns even joined a family as they searched for the hidden treasure on a geocache hunt. Everyone in the group eventually found the tiny capsule hidden in a nearby tree.

The group clowned around for about four hours and finished up their time



Keedo's Prop Shop: The Magic Frame

by Joyce "Keedo" Dowell

Let's make a simple and inexpensive, yet very impressive magic trick. You will need an 8 X 10 picture frame, an 8 X 10 clown picture of yourself



a transparency and a piece of white poster board. A transparency is a clear piece of plastic they use with overhead projectors. The effect of the trick is a black outline of you on a background of white is covered up and then magically shown in full & living color.

Put the transparency over your picture & outline everything onto the transparency with a fine line Sharpie. Later at the reveal of the color these lines are not noticeable. Even if they are, it is suppose to be like a page from a coloring book that has lines.

Cut the poster board the same size as the picture and the transparency only leave it 2 inches taller. Take the frame and remove the back. Turn the picture frame over so that the back will be sliding in from the top instead of the bottom. Put in the clear transparency into the frame showing out next to the glass, followed by the poster board, the color picture and then the back. Fold the poster board back over the top of the frame and down. It helps to take the poster board out & score it along those two lines. Mine were about ¼ in. apart (the thickness of the back half of the frame) I bent it in the shape to stick out slightly from the back of the frame and covered the cuts with a wide piece

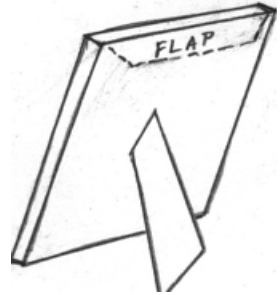
of clear tape to reinforce it again. I also cut the corners off of the flap at an angle, so it couldn't accidentally be seen from the front.

Reassemble it all.

To perform it: come up with a reason why you didn't have time to color your picture. (I do have the red nose colored in on mine) Cover the frame with an opaque cloth.

(Mine is a 19 ½ in. square of black cloth that came with a different trick) Drag it out with the trick not working a couple times. I use the magic crayons and also have them pick a color from their clothes & throw it toward the picture. As you remove the cloth the final time, grab the flap through the cloth

by catching your fingers under the flap and holding on to it and the cloth. Pull the poster board up, out of the



frame, back parallel to the tabletop and lay it down flat. If you do this in one swift & smooth movement the poster board stays covered by the cloth & you have laid it down flat behind the revealed trick. Practice this move. You can go one step further. You have your outline picture, make copies of it and hand them out to the kids as coloring sheets.

(Reprinted from The Cheerful Chatter - Houston, TX.)

The Joey Journal is proud to offer this new, regularly appearing column by Keedo.

Memory Test from Yester-Year

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, what did he leave behind?
2. When the Beatles first come to the US back in early 1964, we all watched them on the _____ Show.
3. "Get your kicks, _____."
4. The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to _____.
5. "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____."
6. After the Twist, The Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we 'danced' under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in the dance called the "_____".
7. "Nestle's makes the very best.... _____."
8. Satchmo was America's "Ambassador of Goodwill.' Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. his name was _____.
9. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking?
10. Red Skelton's hobo character was named _____ and Red always ended his television show by saying, "Good Night, and _____."
11. Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their _____.
12. The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW. What other names did it go by?
13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about, 'the day the music died.' This was a tribute to _____.
14. We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit. The Russians did it. It was called _____.

- Answers
1. A silver bullet.
 2. The Ed Sullivan Show
 3. On Route 66
 4. to protect the innocent
 5. The lion sleeps tonight
 6. The Limbo
 7. Chocolate
 8. Louis Armstrong
 9. The Timex watch
 10. Freddy, the Freeloader, "God bless"
 11. Draft cards
 12. Beetle or Bug
 13. Buddy Holly
 14. Sputnik

TCA DONATIONS

TCA received TWO donations this month. That is more than I have received in all of the years I have served as TCA Treasurer. This is a GRAND IDEA. If you are doing something 'charitable', why not ask the folks hiring you to make a donation to your favorite STATE CLOWN association. TCA appreciates your support.

The Seguin Shakespeare Club donated \$25 in honor of Andy "Banjo" Quittner speaking at their club meeting on the topic of the history of clowning.

Wendy "Comfort" Dugas made a personal donation of 40 FOREVER postage stamps. As we all know, postage these days is pricey. The extra postage stamps will assist with bill paying and mailing out Membership information and new member packets.

Special thanks to these TCA members for the extra support.

Mauri / Binkie

Treasurer

Dues Renewals

Just a REMINDER that dues were due on 4/1/2014. You should have received a Renewal Notice in March. If not or if you have misplaced the notice, dues are:

- \$25 per person for Regular membership
- \$12.50 per person for Junior membership - UNDER age 16 as of 3/31/2014
- \$15 each for FAMILY members - these are immediate family members of a Regular member living at the SAME address.

Dues can be paid online at <http://www.texasclownassociation.com/> using PayPal and a credit card or you can issue your check to Texas Clown Association and mail to Mauri Norris at 6504 Kenyon Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.

Are You Ready for the TCA Convention?

by Mauri “Binkie” Norris

The TCA Convention will be here before we know it. Just want to remind you of a few things and inform you of some other things to make sure you fully enjoy the convention.

Jolly Joeys Clown Alley in San Antonio has been working hard to present a full and fun convention for you this year. Randy Christensen is the main Headliner for the 2014 convention. If you have never had the pleasure of seeing Randy perform or lecture before, well you are in for a real treat! If you have seen him before, then I don't have to say anything more – you will want to see him again - I KNOW! He is extremely talented and an excellent teacher. You can read more about Randy at his website - <http://www.randysinfo.com/Home.htm>.

Randy isn't the only talented lecturer that will be on hand to teach you new things. Sue “Pancakes” Kleinwachter, Tricia “Priscilla Mooseburger” Manuel, Cheri “Cherri Oats” Venturi and Scott Correll are just a few of the others that you will see during this convention. Continue to check the TCA website for links to the Jolly Joeys website where you can find updates to the list of lecturers and the vendors scheduled for this year's convention.

We are hoping to have some social time too! We all really enjoy

visiting. The Hospitality Room this year is HUGE! We should be able to enjoy our spare time there (if we have any spare time that is). Also, it is much removed from other guest rooms so noise should not be an issue. NOTE: per hotel policy, you cannot bring outside food or drink into the Conference Center rooms (outside food is anything you did not purchase from the hotel). Please respect the hotel rules and keep your outside food in your own room or the hospitality Room. There are a couple of outside patio areas that will be great for more socializing and we have extra space for jams too. October weather is usually very pleasant in the Texas Hill Country, so keep your fingers crossed. So hang around and get to know some new TCA folks and catch-up with some old friends too! Watch for folks with the FIRST TIME Ribbons – they probably could use a little guidance and some TCA friends.

Remember that the hotel has two floors and NO ELEVATOR, so if stairs are an issue for you, you need to tell the Hotel WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS – DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARRIVE AT THE HOTEL. Also, most of the rooms have 2 QUEEN beds or one KING bed but there are a select few rooms with DOUBLE beds that are only used when they are at near capacity or by special re-

quest. So if you NEED a DOUBLE for some reason, you can request one. Every room has a refrigerator and microwave. The hotel has been FULLY renovated within the last few years. Breakfast is included with your hotel room reservations. Room rate is \$99/nt plus taxes for up to TWO people in the room, each additional person is \$10/nt more. The increase is primarily due to the breakfast being included.

There will be classes on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You should try to arrive no later than 4:00pm on Wednesday to get the most of this TCA convention. There will be a SPECIAL SHOW scheduled on either Thursday or Friday and of course the usual Saturday evening the Awards Banquet. Typical attire for the Awards Banquet is smart casual-to-dressy ('churchy' for some). The winners of all the various competitions and the Best All Around Clown, the Spark Plug Awards, and the TCA Ambassador Award will all be announced during the banquet.

Sunday morning wraps up the whole affair with a worship service. Since there is a robust Continental Breakfast included with your hotel room, there is no organized convention breakfast on Sunday morning.

If you cannot come for the whole convention – there is a Day Rate of \$75 (it includes all classes that day and Dealer Room entry but no meals). There are classes offered

during the convention for all levels of clowning expertise, from the novice or beginner clown to the seasoned performer. Also, if you want to shop in the DEALER ROOM ONLY – that will cost \$20. It gets admission to the DELAER ROOM ONLY – no classes or meals.

If you have not already registered for the convention, please pre-register. This saves you money and allows the host alley to know how many folks will be on hand and better plan for the crowd. The adult registration rate is \$165 until August 31st. Also, book your room at the convention hotel. Be sure to pay your TCA dues (you will have to pay when you arrive if you have not paid in advance – better to take care of that before you arrive). Then once you check-in at the convention – review your program and the convention schedule to decide how best to spend your time to your own advantage. Check out your Goodie Bag and put anything you do not want into the Recycle Box at the Registration desk. Be sure to Sign-Up for the competitions EARLY - do not miss the cut-off times (you can cancel later if you have to, but you cannot sign-up later). Be sure to READ THE RULES as posted on the TCA website for each category you plan to enter. Nothing hurts more than being disqualified or penalized because you didn't follow the rules (remember the TCA rules may have CHANGED or may be different from those for other

clown organizations). Sign-up for the Banquet too – as soon as the sign-up boards are posted.

The Hospitality Room will be open often for light eats and drinks and every late night for snacks and smiles. The hotel does have a restaurant on site and there are some fast-food places not too far away. Within a quick walk you will find -- Popeye's, Dairy Queen, Dickey's BBQ, Pizza Hut, Taco Casa, Chinese food and more. Truly something for every taste.

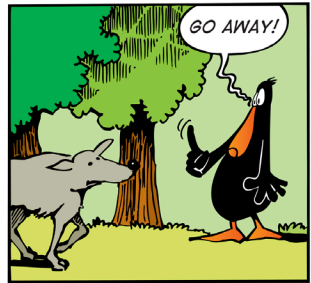
Casual clothes (clowny clothes) are typically worn during the day at convention (sometimes the classrooms are very cool – so a sweater might be a good idea too). While you are packing, if you have a left-

over lanyard (name tag holder) from a previous convention, please bring one along. We have some but they are in short supply and if you have one of your own that will help the hosts. We will be happy to take any extra lanyards you no longer want. Most folks do not get into clown (make-up and wardrobe) unless they are competing or having photos made. However, being in make-up might make you feel more involved – so feel free to wear your make-up and/or wardrobe during the convention. And hopefully we will take a Group Photo too – so you might want to be in make-up for that event.

There are always lots of ways to spend money at convention – start-

BLACK DUCKS

BY
IGOR
ZAKOWSKI



ing in the Dealer Room – we will have lots of dealers on hand to sell you the things that clowns need most. Also, there are Convention T-shirts available, but only if you PRE-ORDER (if you want one, send your Registration form and payment as directed on the form – the form is posted on the TCA website). THIS YEAR THEY ARE OFFERED IN BOTH SHORT SLEEVE AND LONG SLEEVE OPTIONS. If you already ordered a short sleeve and want long sleeve instead – they are \$3 extra – send the extra payment with your name and size per the registration form. Do not wait until you arrive at the convention – it will be too late! Of course, there is also lunch (and dinner on your own) and photos and RAFFLE tickets! So I hope you have been saving your pennies (and nickels and dimes and dollars too) so that you can stock up on all of the goodies we will have to offer at

the 2014 TCA Convention. Now if you are the gambling kind, there is a contest for Program Ads too – each individual (no businesses or commercial ads will qualify) business card sized ad you buy in the convention program will receive one chance to win a \$100 CASH RIZE! Larger ads get multiple entries (chances). So you might be able to get some more convention spending money just by spending a little bit. See article about the Program Ads in The Joey Journal. Hurry, there is a deadline coming soon!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Hope to see many of you in Kerrville in October.

Mauri “Binkie” Norris
maurinorris@yahoo.com



Coulrophobia

By Randy Christensen

How many times have you had a child or adult tell you that they are afraid of clowns? What breeds this fear, called “coulrophobia?” What has brought this mindset that hinders the relationship that an audience may have with the performer? Has this dislike always been there, or is this something new?

I propose that at some level, there has always been a fear of clowns in most children. Here’s why: Young children find security in “the known” and are afraid of the unknown. They feel safe when they have routine and consistency. Consider this young family’s plight. The parent needs to find a babysitter, but the youngster is afraid of strangers. The new babysitter already is at a loss. Simply, the only way the babysitter may gain the trust of the preschooler is by being kind, loving, soft-spoken, consistent, and inviting. When I say “inviting,” I mean that the babysitter opens the door for the child to come into a playful fun situation with the babysitter. But, the babysitter understands that the child must move at the child’s own pace when the child is ready to step out and trust this stranger.

Same thing for us. Clowns are strangers. Fact is, stranger than most folks a child has ever seen. It’s normal for a child to have insecurity when facing a new situation, or a

new person. So, if a child appears to be afraid of you, don’t be surprised by that.



One Christmas season I worked as a mall Santa Claus. I could read the eyes and body language of the children. As some came closer to the front of the line, I knew their apprehension at visiting the bearded fat man was growing too. Most had never met a person that dressed or and looked like that in person. More than one child cried. Most came and spoke with me, but many decided to keep a “safe distance” and not sit on my lap. The advantage I had was that most parents spoke lovingly and encouraged their child sharing that Santa was a nice jolly man that loved them. They spoke very positively and tried to convince them that having a re-

lationship with this strange looking character would be rewarding.

I often hear the opposite from parents as they introduce a clown. “You’re not afraid of that scary clown are you!? Well, I know clowns are scary, just stay away from him and he probably won’t hurt you.” My! What a different atmosphere that parent just created.

Make sure that when you are introduced to a young crowd that the emcee does it with a smile and an enthusiastic attitude. I recommend something like this:

“Oh children, I have a very special funny friend that I want you to meet. He’s a very, very nice friend of mine that loves to play, and laugh, and have fun, and we get to play along with him today. Get ready to smile and laugh and clap along as we welcome my good friend _____ the clown!”

This is so much better than, “Now kids, I understand that some of you are very afraid of clowns and I don’t blame you...”

Many adults that are afraid of clowns have shared that their first memory of being with a clown included a strong sense of being “cornered”. They felt intimidated by the close physical presence of the clown. This is why it’s important to not pursue a person. Instead, make your presence softly known in a room, and then allow people to come to you when they are ready. Also consider that a child may feel very awkward if he feels that the

clown expects him to do something. Often the child does not know what that “something” is. This causes a feeling of apprehension in the child. Examine if your make-up design is frightening. Fact is, there are some clowns whose appearance scares me! I don’t blame an audience for being afraid of some clowns.

It’s true that many in America have a strange enjoyment of horror movies. Some feel entertained by graphic torture in sicko movies. Unfortunately, I’ve had young children tell me they are afraid of clowns because they watched Stephen King’s movie, “It”. It is mind boggling for me to believe that parents would allow young children to watch this “R” rated movie. Those types of movies are made to do one thing—put fear into people. So, it’s not a surprise that more people are afraid of clowns because of the entertainment industry’s perversion of clean comedy characters. It’s part of our culture. I wish it wasn’t, but it is.

So, what can we do? I propose this: Don’t scare people! Many have coulrophobia anyway. Don’t give them a reason to be afraid of you. Most people will decide if they are frightened or not in the first 10 seconds they see you. So, here are some key things to consider when entering an area:

1. Move slowly – Fast erratic movements are unpredictable. So, when entering an area, move slowly.

2. Speak softly—Don't enter with a blast of a horn or yelling. That startles people. Be gentle.
3. Give space—Allow people more personal space than normal. If they want to talk with you, they will come to you.
4. Use misdirection—Magician's draw people's attention to where they want the audience to look. You may need to draw children's attention away from you and to something else—like a puppet, or juggling balls, or soap bubbles, etc. As they enjoy watching this other activity, they have time to get used to you being there. If the activity is fun, they will believe YOU are fun.
5. Gain permission—Always ask people if they want to visit. Ask permission to enter their room. If not, don't be offended. Empower them to make choices and then abide by their wish.
6. Be introduced by a positive person in a positive way.
7. Receive honest feedback about your make-up design. Find a pro that can help you. A great place to do this is at conventions and

clown alleys.

Now, I understand different venues require different approaches. Moving slowly and speaking softly is not what a circus usually brings. But, in a circus ring the clown is usually at least fifteen feet away from the closest audience member. A child seated in row 38, section G isn't anywhere near a clown. The circus clown and stage clown will live by different rules than the close up performer.

Don't be discouraged that some people have had poor experiences, or have been only given bad information about clowns. There still are people out there who are excited about engaging your clown. What we must do is go out there and one by one show people that clowns are loving and not hurting, good and not evil, friendly and not wicked, nurturing and not perverted, fun and not frightening.

P.S. To read more free articles by Randy go to www.qualityprograms.net

Ads For Convention Book

Maximum space on each page 7 1/2" x 4 1/4" - no bleed. (Final trim size: Same as Joey Journal). Rates are for camera-ready ads (over size ads will be reduced to fit ad space).

- 1) Inside Front & Outside Back Cover-Color: \$125 (7 1/2" x4 1/4").
- 2) Inside Pages - Color: \$100 / Blk&White: \$75 (7 1/2"x 4 1/4").
- 3) Half Page Inside - Color: \$75 / Blk&White: \$60 (3 3/4"x 4 1/4").
- 4) Quarter Page Inside - Color: \$45 / Blk&White: \$30(2"x 4 1/4")
- 5) Business Card Ad - Color: \$25 /Blk&White: \$15 (2 1/2"x 3 1/2")

(Note: For best results, submit an original calling card.

Card quality will determine the appearance of your ad in the program book).

Traditionally, alleys have purchased full page ads while individual clowns have invested in quarter-size or business card ads; dealers insert half-page or full page size ads.

Deadline is August 15, 2015.

Make checks to: Jolly Joeys Clown Alley

Mail your checks to:

Diana McCurtain-Talbert

8542 Rita Elena San Antonio, TX 78250

Ads may be submitted by mail, but e-mail is preferred.

Picture format is also preferred (jpg or similar files). |

If you have any questions please call Diana McCurtain-Talbert –

Phone Number: 210-391-6087

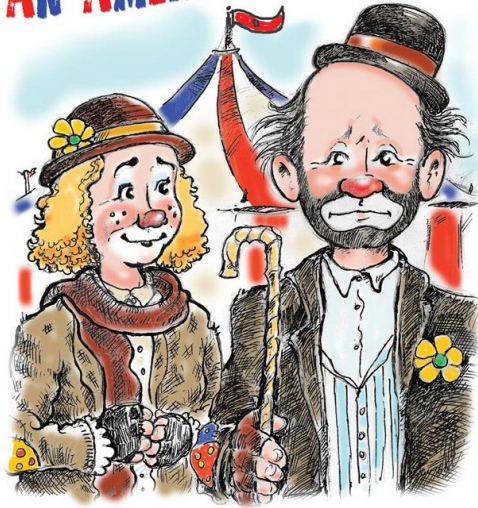
Email address: dmccurtain@att.net

**Be sure to check out the TCA website at
www.texasclownassociation.com**

The members only password is: sanantonio

Be sure to connect to our official TCA Facebook page from our website and follow us to stay current with what is going on with TCA.

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<http://www.jollyjoey.org/tca-convention-2014>

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