

# Joey Journal



April - May 2022 Issue 9

[texasclownassociation.com](http://texasclownassociation.com)



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# Purpose of TCA

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.

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# THE JOEY JOURNAL

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Greg "Zoots" Stanford, Editor

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Junior Membership (age 10-15): \$17.50  
Senior Membership (over 90): \$20.00

Visit [www.texasclownassociation.com](http://www.texasclownassociation.com) for online or mail in membership application and renewal.

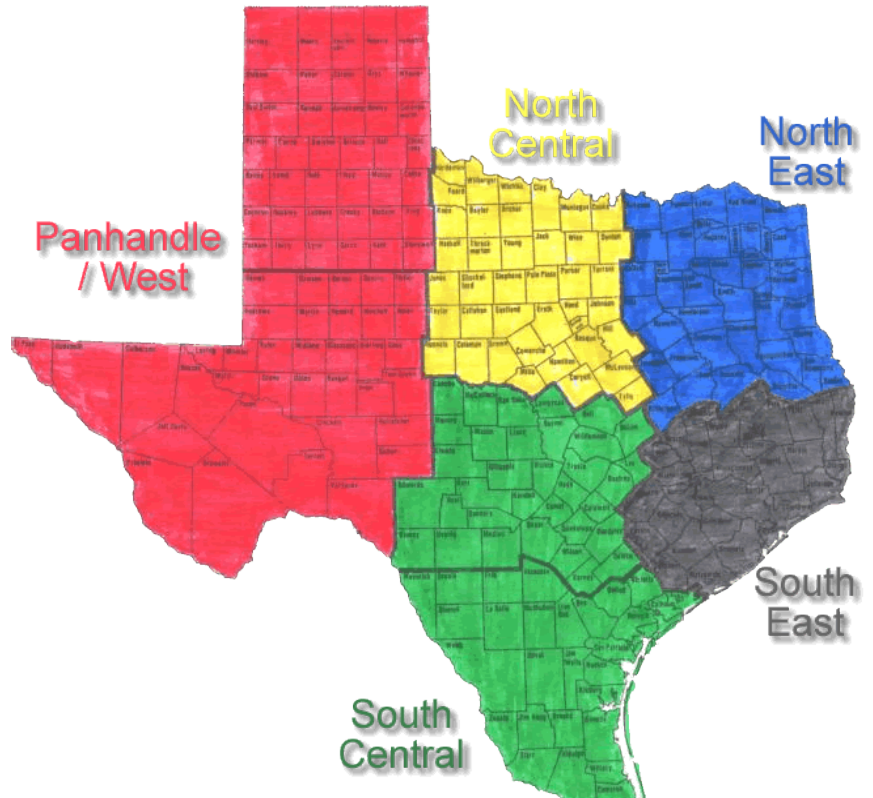
**Central membership mailing location:** Send all membership questions, dues, renewals, reinstatements, address changes and applications to TCA, Inc., P.O. Box 820, Hurst, Texas 76053.

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# 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\*

Rosey Nose Clown Alley - TCA #25

Memory Makers Clown Alley - TCA #26

### South East Region

Space City Clown Alley - TCA #6\*

Montgomery County Clowns - TCA #11\*

Cheeful Clown Alley - TCA #14

Coastal Confetti Clowns - TCA #18\*

### South/Central Region

Jolly Joey Clown Alley - TCA #19

The Clown Alley - TCA #15

\*Inactive Alleys





*a word from the*  
**PRESIDENT**

by Patsy "Glitterbug" McMillan

By the time you read this Joey Journal we will have experienced Spring with all the beauty from the blooming of flowers and trees that it brings; along with the warmer breezes that makes you develop the sneezes. So dry up the watery, itchy eyes and catch your runny nose so you can blossom again to show the world how a clown goes. Let's put on our characters with all the enthusiasm and determination to give joy with a fierce presentation.

Don't forget to apply for a scholarship for the upcoming convention if you are eligible. The deadline for this is June 1, 2022. Please go to the TCA Website for the Scholarship Guidelines or contact Diana McCurtain-Talbert who graciously accepted this committee position at the January Board meeting.

Also this year is a "Blue Ribbon Year" so get your award winning pictures submitted for the program – excited to see everyone's expertise.

The next TCA Board meeting will be May 21, 2022 in Euless, Texas. If you would like to attend, please feel free to do so – but if you cannot be there and would like an item to be addressed, give your request to any board member to have added to the agenda.



# TCA Scholarship

by Diana "Buttons" McCurtain-Talbert

Hello Texas Clowns! I hope you're all getting excited about the upcoming Texas Clown Convention in Houston! I know I'm super excited to see you all again!

With the increased costs related to food, gas, and pretty much everything else, this is a great time to take advantage of your membership benefits with TCA.

We are currently accepting applications for scholarships to the upcoming Convention! Get your application in early, or at least before it's too late! You never know, this could make this trip just tiny bit more affordable! Here are some important things to keep in mind as you prepare to fill out this super easy application:

- All applications must be received by the date listed in the current Joey Journal.
- All applicants must be TCA members who have maintained membership for at least 1 year by the application deadline.
- Recipients must wait two years before reapplying.
- Applicants must agree to write an article for The Joey Journal regarding their experiences at the TCA Convention they attended within thirty days of the convention.
- It is strongly suggested that the recipient participate in one or more competitions at the convention.
- Attach with the application form: A letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities & a picture of you in costume & make-up. (Photo will not be returned.)

You can find the full details regarding this application in the attachments provided, and you can also find them on the TCA website under the Members Only Tab!

Due date for submission is June 1, 2022 either postmarked if mailed, or time stamped by midnight if emailed.

You can contact me at: [mccurtad@yahoo.com](mailto:mccurtad@yahoo.com) or at 210-391-6087 if you have any questions at all!



## TEXAS CLOWN ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name TCA # \_\_\_\_\_

Clown  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # email \_\_\_\_\_

- Please include a letter of reference from a TCA member who has first-hand knowledge of your clowning abilities.
- Please include a picture of you in make-up & costume. (Photo will not be returned)

Please answer the following questions either typed or written in ink. (*you may attach as a separate sheet*)

1. How long have you been clowning?
2. What clowning venues are you most comfortable clowning and why?
3. What clown skills are you interested in developing?
4. What clown educational programs have you attended in the past two years?
5. Have you received a TCA scholarship in the past two years?
6. How will you apply the education you receive as a result of receiving this scholarship?
  - a. In your community?
  - b. In your alley?
  - c. In the Art of Clowning?
7. Have you attended a TCA Convention in the past & when?

Application must be postmarked by **June 1, 2022**.

If you e-mail all info must be received by midnight **June 1, 2022**. Please send completed form and accompanying documents to:

**Diana McCurtain-Talbert**

**8542 Rita Elena**

**San Antonio, TX 78250**

or e-mail Diana McCurtain-Talbert at [mccurtad@yahoo.com](mailto:mccurtad@yahoo.com)

**The scholarship winner will be contacted by July 1, 2022.**



# Puppets

by Greg "Zoots" Stanford

"Puppets are dead!" I remember hearing a speaker say that several years back at a children's ministry conference i was at. I knew he was wrong then, just as he would be wrong today. Puppets can connect with people of all ages in ways few other things can.

Puppets can break the ice with a scared child, communicate a message in a catchy and memorable way and entertain with a song, or a skit. Puppets are also a great way to add humor to a message as they play the comic relief partner to a serious speaker.

We just saw the closing of one of our long time puppet-clown resources companies, Creative Ministry Solutions - originally named Oneway Street. This just brought to mind how difficult it can be to find quality, professional puppets. I recently ordered some puppets called Pubbet Mini's - and just this month the owner has had to make some hard decisions for his company due to a large rise in shipping cost around the world. All that to say, if you've got some quality puppets, be sure you are taking care of them, they are a valuable tool in your clowning or entertaining.

Speaking of Pubbet Mini's, if you are looking for some good looking hand puppets, at lower prices, check them out at [www.pubbets.net](http://www.pubbets.net). I just did an unboxing video on the three I purchased the other day. You can check it out on my [youtube channel](#).

Here are a couple of tips I have concerning puppets.

- Look for sales on puppet company websites and conferences- Good puppets are expensive.
- By professional puppets, not toys. Most inexpensive puppets sold in toystores are not constructed for professional use and generally don't have a hard mouth plates that I think makes for harder control.
- Look for puppets that have a grip mechanism on the inside mouth plates. This may be half sphere on the top plate, a full custom grip or at the very least, an elastic band to help keep your hand in place.
- Buy generic people puppets that you can costume up to go with various themes. When you buy specialty puppets, like a fireman, with attached costumes, you can't do much outside of that.
- When you are playing for a wide and changing audience, I like to get various colors for puppets rather than "human" skin tones, that way they can appeal to all audiences.



Pubbet Mini's



There is a puppet in there, they all wanted to see him.

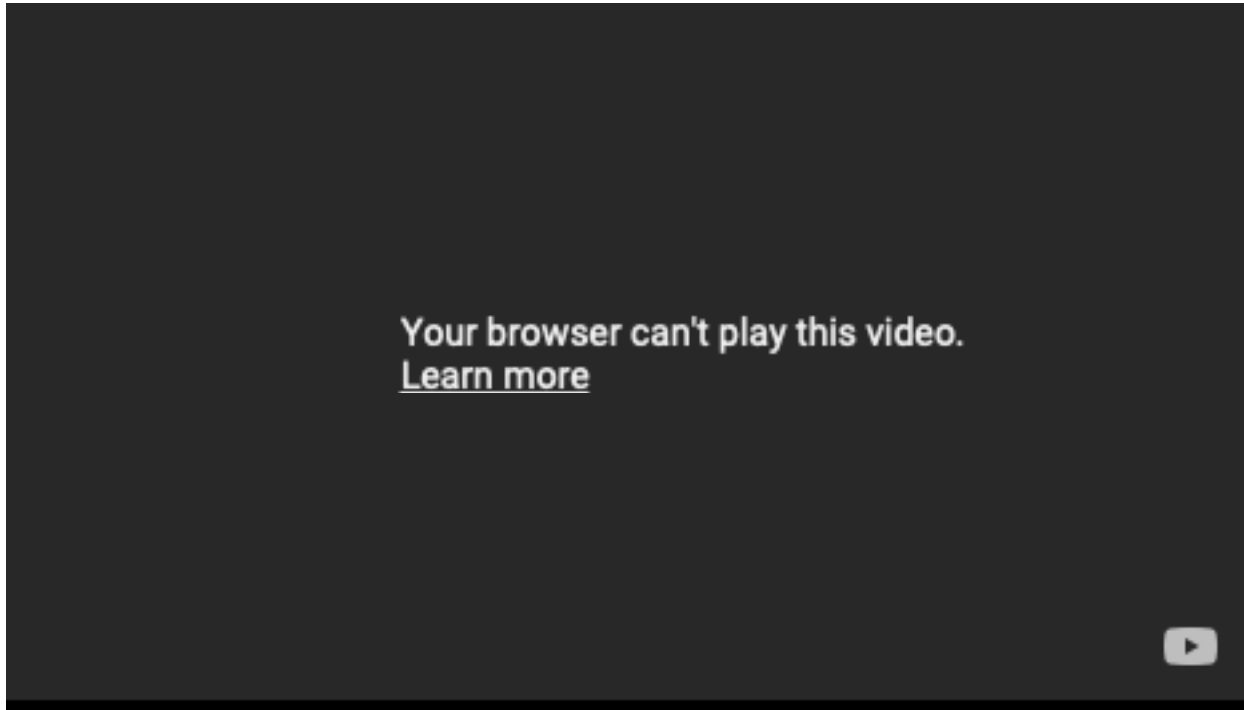


Scruffy has a checkable heart pocket for object lessons.

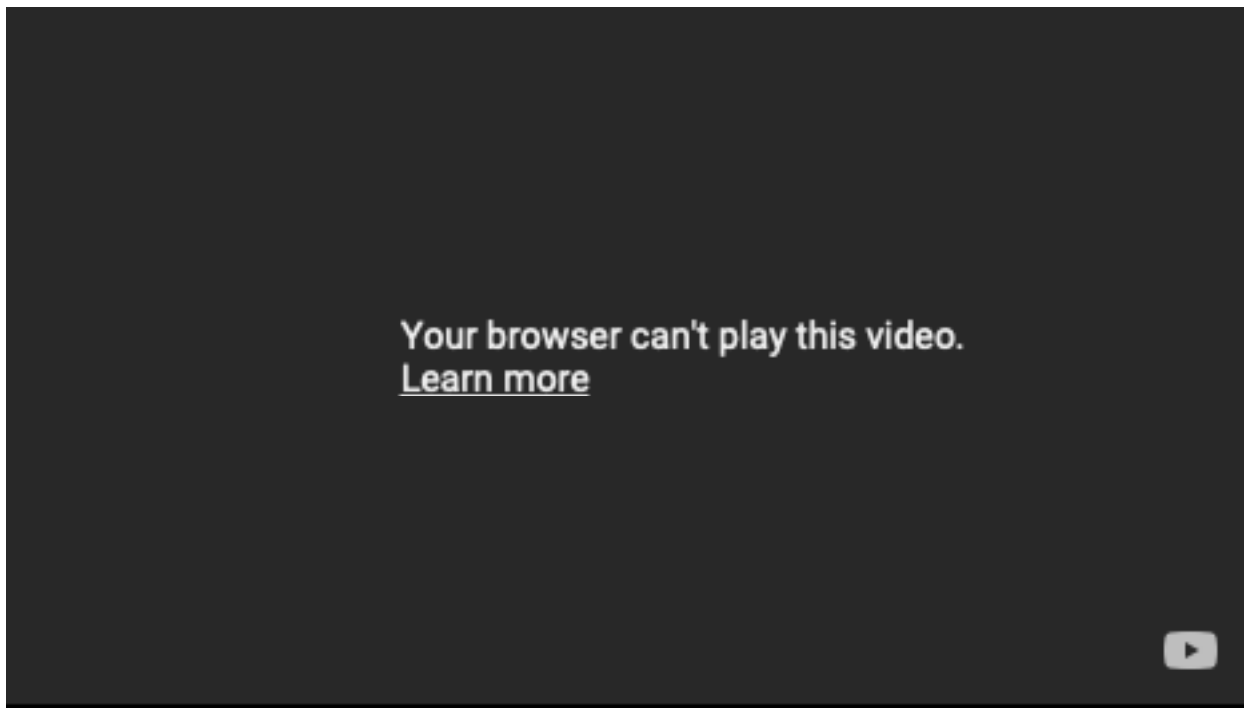




Join Greg as he explores puppet styles and tips to finding the right puppet in "Puppet Zone, Episode 1".



Check out Greg's Pubbet Minis unboxing video.





# MY FUN-LOVIN' PUPPET FAMILY

by Mary "Mary Canary" Turner





## *A Cast of Characters*

Clyde Cotton was a retired circus clown and wisecrack who loved the slower pace. We were a team for several years on the birthday party circuit. “Double C”, a gem of a clown, enjoyed reminiscing about the good old days. The puppet shows wouldn’t have been the same without him. After several years, I moved on and Double C passed on. He is buried in the Showmen’s Rest section of Mount Olivet, a beautiful cemetery in Hugo, Oklahoma. Thanks for the memories Clyde! Aunt Harriet, daddy’s baby sister, is feisty as ever at 88. Harriet and Uncle Henry lived in west Texas for many years, where my uncle was an oil and gas tycoon. He left Aunt H a fortune. She’s tight lipped about her assets, but don’t think I haven’t tried to squeeze this information out of her! My aunt enjoys being a part of my show, but gripes the whole time about her teenage grand kids not visiting. She wants to cut them out of her will. I try to reassure her Helga and Helmet loves her, and if she insists on redoing the will, I can help. I’m dying to know if I’m in there! Aunt H is ornery as they come, but I love her to death.

Fifty-three year old rancher Barney lives on a sprawling ranch in Palo Pinto County, where he has several ranch hands. The ranch has been in the family for five generations. Residents include cattle, horses, goats, chickens, a few stray cats, and Waylon, Barn’s faithful companion. The old hound loves greeting visitors to the ranch, especially Rose, Barn’s sweet lady friend. Rose fell hard for the cowboy after their first date to a tractor pull. They’ve been seeing each other for three years, but this lifelong bachelor still hasn’t popped the question. In a way, Barn is already hitched, to the land he loves so much.

The minute my “clucker” of a hen hits the stage, the children howl with laughter! Henrietta doesn’t even acknowledge them at first; she’s too busy clucking and being madder than a proverbial wet hen! She stops long enough to catch a breath and fill them in. The younger chicks want Henrietta kicked out of the hen house! They feel put upon having to lay all the eggs. Henrietta’s productive years mean nothing to them. After laying this on the children one morning, Henrietta sings her favorite song. The old hen, who hit all the right notes, was shocked to learn she’d laid a beautiful brown egg! But will singing pay off each time? If it puts a screeching halt to all the scratching and pecking, she has to try. I hope you enjoyed meeting just a few of my puppet family members. They’ve taught my audiences and me a lot about perseverance, determination, and kindness, and how important a sense of humor is. They keep me young!



## On A Roll with



### THINGS TO PONDER

Why do you have to “put your two cents in” ... but it’s only a “penny for your thoughts.”  
Where’s that extra penny going to?

What disease did “cured” ham have?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

Why are you IN a movie, but you’re ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up to the top of tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

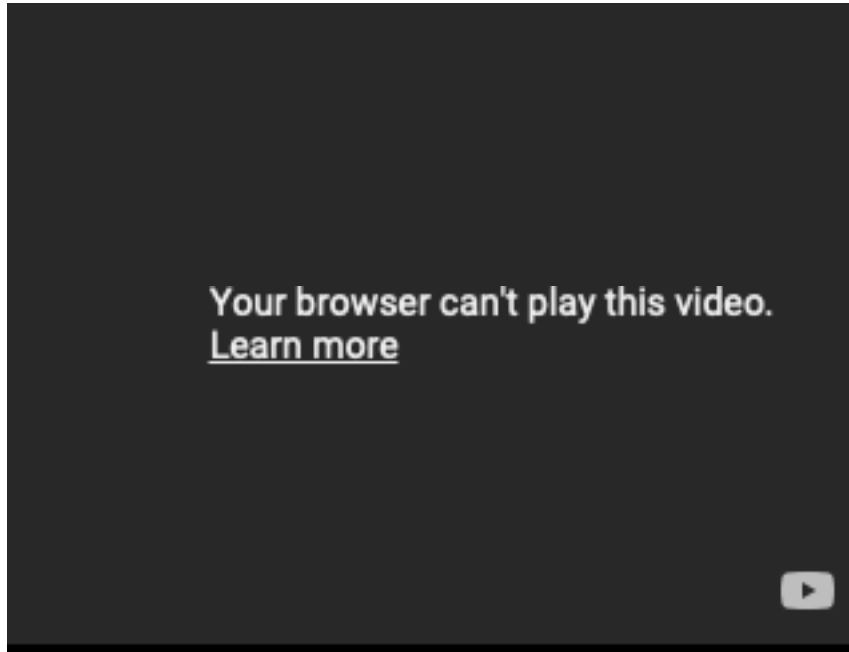




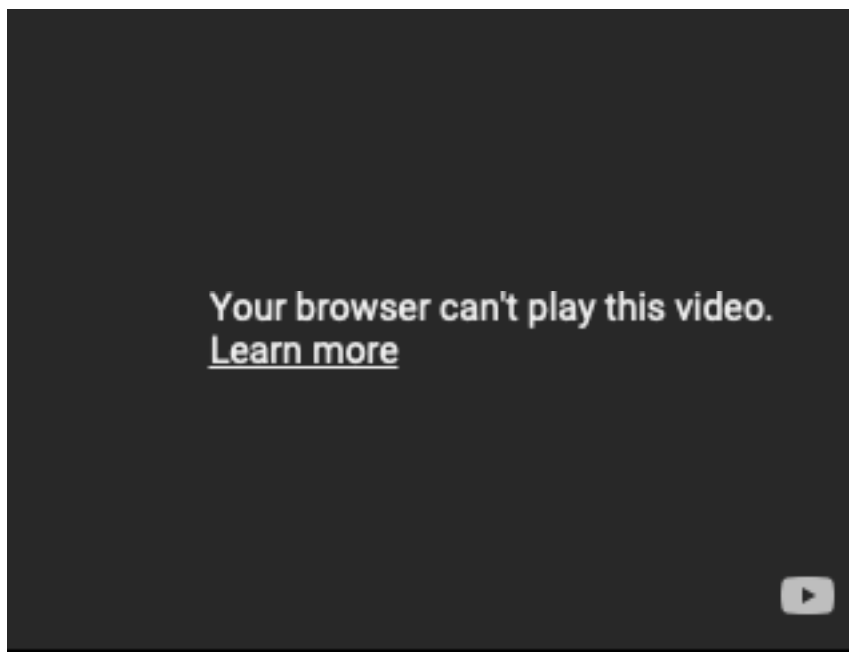


# What's on the **TUBE?**

Learn how you can upgrade your \$15 puppet with the Puppet Nerd.



Sticking with our puppet theme, here's some clowns from Belgium's creative use of large puppets in their skit.





# I Like Old People – I Always Have

By Norman the Clown

It is the day before my birthday and my sweet wife asked if I knew how old I would be on my birthday... Not fully sure, I just said... "I think 39." Just as I heard Jack Benny say so often. I went on to say that I am so lucky and glad that she was 29. Verrrrroom –Yeah! She is awesome! I'd take her on a date any Friday night. She asked again if I knew how old I would be... I responded, "old" and added, "Hey, I like old people! Always have!"

It is good to be old.

I love old people. I recall my wonderful Grandpas and Grandmas were always old people to me - and such nice old people. I am fortunate to have had some really sweet old uncles and aunts too. Many friends and mentors have been old and that is cool. I like old people and I think kids do too. SO I should stay busy in this show business for years to come as I keep getting older.

I don't pretend to be a teen rock star on stage... I have developed entire programs where I am a Farmer in one and a Scientist in the other... I look the part. That is the key to aging on stage. I am developing a "Grandpa Magic" show now for me to grow into in the years ahead.

I got my first taste of show biz when at 10 years old I did magic shows at my Mom's old folks home (as they used to call it before it became Senior Citizen - Either way the people were nice as I did my tricks and stunts and it gave me confidence to do my magic tricks. It was a great start in show biz.

I watched comedians get old over the years and they were just as funny. For example: Red Skelton, George Burns, Lucy Ball, Carol Burnett, Jim Howle, Leon "Buttons" McBryde – all awesome as they aged. They made the world a better place with their love and laughter. That's cool! I wanna do that too! You are awesome as you age too!

So what is the point of this little essay? - - I like old people and so do most everyone! So if you think you are getting a bit too old to clown around ... knock it off, it is natural to get a little bit older - each day, all the time. So please don't think that because you age a bit that you will somehow stop being funny or something like that. Some of us are funnier as we age. My dad for example, would try to crack jokes as he did his ventriloquist act over the years... but when he did it at 90 years old he was a hit! It was fun to see him do the old shtick! I even got him a book of short one liner jokes and suggested he pick one out to do each day at lunch with the others in his Senior Independent living building. He learned a joke each day and told the joke from table to table. "Are you ready for today's joke?" It got to the point that the people looked forward to each day's joke. Some were better than others but hey... it brightened people's days. Your audiences might change... but you still got something to share everywhere you go – laughter, kindness and a smile. You might be a happy highlight in someone's day.





## Three Comic Bits... For When You are Out and About By: Norman

- 1) **Cash or Credit** - When paying for gas or groceries etc I try to put a \$20 dollar bill into the credit card swipe machine... some clerks look confused then laugh ... others laugh right away. Hey I gave them a laugh and made their day a bit brighter. Try it. Practice your comedy everywhere.
- 2) **Do you have Change for a Million?** Get some Million dollar bills and try to pay with that. Simply say, "Do you have change for a Million?" Hand the clerk the Million dollar bill. These obviously fake bills are so cheap that I love to give one to the clerk to show their friends. Pay with your credit card and comment as you point to the bill in their hand "Ah, I'm feeling good - you can keep the change." It will brighten that person's day.
- 3) **Old Magic Trick:** If there is no one waiting in line behind you ... say to the clerk, "Do you want to see a quick magic trick?" They nod, and then you continue. "It is the old coin from behind the ear trick. Turn your head so your right ear is away from them and reach up with your right hand, fumble for a moment act like there is some problem and then pull out a hearing aid!! There seems to be a wire running back behind your ear. Left hand is up helping from the other side behind your head. The tiny wires continue and then you give a sleight tug and there on the other end of the wire hangs a plastic ear! Make a comment – "I need to practice more." I think this is funny. Not every bit may fit your style. This is done with fake hearing aid – some wire and a rubber ear from the novelty shop. You tuck this in your collar before you go in and turn your head a bit when doing it so they cannot see you pulling it out. The left hand helps to hold the fake ear behind your head right before the little tug releases it. You can then pull a penny from out of the fake ear – "oh, it worked!"
- 4) **Bonus Gag:** When it's time to pay, pull a bunch of monopoly money from your wallet and fumble through it... then pull out your credit card from the monopoly money.
- 5) **Bonus Gag...** Print up some "Get out of Jail Free" cards and give the clerk one.
- 6) **Remember - All the World is a Stage.** Go make some laughs anywhere and everywhere. And hey, go hug an old person! If you can't find one... then give me a hug! You are never too old to be a clown and spread some joy.

Norman is a clown guy who likes to hear laughter - Learn more at: [CleanComedyGuys.com](http://CleanComedyGuys.com)







Be sure to check out the TCA website at  
[www.texasclownassociation.com](http://www.texasclownassociation.com)

The members only password is: clowns22

Be sure to connect to our official TCA facebook page - you can find the link on our website. Follow us and stay current with what is going on with TCA.



# How to Avoid Heat Related Illness During a Parade

by: Diana "Buttons" McCurtain-Talbert

It's that time of year again, summer parades are upon us. It's easy to get excited about an upcoming parade. We find the right prop, we come up with the right bit, and we get the costume to coordinate with our act. Ready, Set, Go.

Well, not quite yet.... We have forgotten one of the most important parts of clowning in a parade. We must think about safety.

When you exercise in hot weather, keep these precautions in mind:

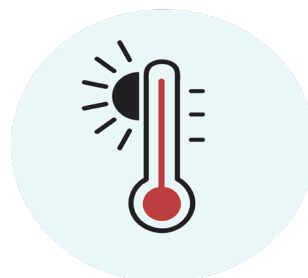
According to the American Council on Exercise (ACE), excessive clothing and fat both have the potential for trapping heat in the body and preventing it from escaping. This can lead to an increase in body temperature. Under normal conditions, body temperature will rise about 2-3° F during exercise. Heat injuries can occur when heat loss is compromised. So how does this happen? Heat combined with humidity is a big culprit of compromised heat loss because the large amount of water in the air means that sweat will not readily evaporate. This decreases the efficiency of the body's most effective cooling system. So, knowing that the potential for heat illness exists, here are some tips for preparing for your summer of fun!

- Get ready for the parade by beginning an exercise program in the heat gradually. Acclimatization typically takes 7 to 10 days so give yourself plenty of time.
  - Always wear light-weight, well-ventilated clothing. Wear light-colored clothing if exercising in the sun, as white reflects heat better than other colors. This is hard for clowns because they tend towards heavy costumes and often deep and darker primary colors.
  - Never wear non-breathable clothing. It might be worth your while to have costumes made specifically for your parades. Cotton is a good choice for the heat because it readily soaks up sweat and allows for evaporation. It may require more work on your part

to keep it looking good, but it is worth the effort.

- If it will work with your costume or prop, use an umbrella so that you can have shade during your march.
  - Replace body fluids as they are lost. Your sweat will release heat through the skin, so don't wait until you're thirsty to drink something. More often than not, if you wait until you're thirsty, you are already on your way to becoming dehydrated. This means your body's best cooling system will not work as efficiently as it should. As a general rule, during exercise in heat, 6-8oz every 15-20 minutes is recommended.
    - If you are not as acclimated as you should be or if you are not very fit, a parade could be very intense exercise for you. You might want to consider a sports drink instead of water. Sports drinks can replace the sodium, chloride and potassium you lose through sweating.
      - Consider freezing a camelback and putting it between your costume and a thin layer of clothing such as a tank top under the costume. This will provide cooling on your body, as well as provide you with readily available water for hydrating during the parade.
      - And finally, understand your medical risks. Certain medical conditions or medications can increase your risk of a heat-related illness. If you plan to do a long parade in the heat, talk to your doctor about precautions.

I truly hope this will help you as you plan your summer events. If you have any questions about clowning/exercise in the heat, please feel free to contact me, [dmccurtain@att.net](mailto:dmccurtain@att.net).





## Symptoms of Heat Related Illness

Taken from WebMD

Heat cramp symptoms can include:

Severe, sometimes disabling, cramps that typically begin suddenly in the hands, calves, or feet and hard, tense muscles

Heat exhaustion symptoms can include:

Fatigue, nausea, headache, excessive thirst, muscle aches and cramps, weakness, confusion or anxiety, drenching sweats, often accompanied by cold, clammy skin, slowed or weakened heartbeat, dizziness, fainting, agitation

### Heat exhaustion requires immediate attention.

Heat stroke symptoms can include:

Nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness or vertigo, fatigue, hot, flushed, dry skin, rapid heart rate, decreased sweating, shortness of breath, decreased urination, blood in urine or stool, increased body temperature (104 degrees to 106 degrees F), confusion, delirium, or loss of consciousness, convulsions

Heat stroke can occur suddenly, without any symptoms of heat exhaustion. If a person is experiencing any symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, **GET MEDICAL CARE IMMEDIATELY**. Any delay could be fatal.

Seek emergency medical care for anyone who has been in the heat and who has the following symptoms:

Confusion, anxiety, or loss of consciousness, very rapid or dramatically slowed heartbeat, rapid rise in body temperature that reaches 104 degrees to 106 degrees F, either drenching sweats accompanied by cold, clammy skin (which may indicate heat exhaustion) or a marked decrease in sweating accompanied by hot, flushed, dry skin (which may indicate heat stroke), or convulsions.





# TCA Convention 2022

Aug. 3-7, 2022

Spring, Texas

[texasclownassociation.com](http://texasclownassociation.com)