



Joggler's Jottings

by Bill Giduz, editor

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It's like when you get a haircut. You're likely to forget your appearance has changed. So it is with this initial issue of Jugglers World. Despite the name change in the IJA's official publication, I feel the same as I did as editor of the Newsletter in July.

The name, Jugglers World, was suggested to, and overwhelmingly approved by, IJA members at the convention business meeting without much explanation or question.. For that courtesy, I thank them. I've had time since then to clarify the reason why the change was suggested, and feel obliged to explain post-facto.

More and more I am convinced that it is one world, and its citizens must communicate to maintain it as home. Jugglers World, and I as editor, want to act toward that goal, codifying information to be commonly read. It is not all the organization can do to be a good world citizen, but is one thing it must do.

The sudden renaissance of juggling in the United States can only rightly be viewed in the perspective of the vast scope of juggling outside our borders. Juggling technique has been refined in various parts of the world far beyond the scope of performers on stage at the Cleveland convention. Read within how women on the South Seas island of Tonga shower juggle seven objects in an ancient social ritual. Of Evgenij Biljauer's mastery of five clubs behind the Iron Curtain. And of the magnificently delicate balance possessed by Chinese acrobats.

The recent interest in juggling stateside should not make us myopic, but spur us to explore juggling everywhere. It's an astounding juggler's world out there, and Jugglers World wants you to know about it. Moreover, Jugglers World would like to help every person become a world citizen and communicate with other world citizens through a skill they commonly practice and enjoy.

There's exciting news for jogglers this month! Michel Lauziere of Drummondville , Quebec , juggled a marathon in early September. His time of 4 hours, 10 minutes, is not so important as the precedence of his feat. I know of no one else who has covered the magical 26 mile, 385 yard distance while juggling.

Lauziere is two-time IJA mile juggling champion, but has never faced Scott Damgaard. In a recent *Milwaukee Sentinel* article, Damgaard claimed a new mile juggling record. Damgaard, called that paper in mid-August and challenged an unbelieving reporter to a mile race in which Scott would juggle and the reporter run.

As duly reported in a [subsequent edition](#), Damgaard not only beat the reporter, but did so in 4 minutes, 37 seconds! That tops Lauziere's best in IJA competition by a full minute!

One thing you notice at an IJA convention is how many people just stand around and 'oogle.' That's Robert York's expression for the statuary pose of observation struck by jugglers watching someone else juggle.

You have to be a better juggler than I to attract ooglers, so I can't speak for the oogled party. But I'm quite an oogler myself on the convention floor, and can describe the phenomenon extensively from that point of reference.

It starts just wandering around a gym floor with time on your hands and nowhere to go, surrounded by up to hundreds of other active and non-active jugglers. In that situation, my eye is quickly attracted to the action of someone else's impressive efforts, either as individuals or groups. I approach it to the edge of that undefined but well-recognized personal juggling space occupied by the juggler-in-action.

Then I start oogling. I've notice that some ooglers stand and some sit. The more ooglers there are, the more likely you are to find sitters.

In any case, the oogler(s) watch at silent attention with a steady eye for detail as the subject goes through the paces. Silence is usually maintained out of respect for the concentration of the performer. Also out of an appreciation for the right to oogle. Eventually, the subject will take a break, and ooglers can pass into introductions and questions.

I'm an oogler because it's one of the most pleasant ways to meet people I know. Ooglers love the oogled attention and a sincere appreciation for finer application of the common exercise.

The person oogled is usually genuinely glad to receive a pat on the back; and glad, subsequently, to talk and tell. So, two people meet, support each others relative interest, and each make a contact. It stems from recognition on the convention floor that effort and ability are two sides of the same coin.

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