

THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter

May/June 2016



After 145 years, the tradition of elephants performing at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus has come to an end and the pachyderms are headed for retirement.

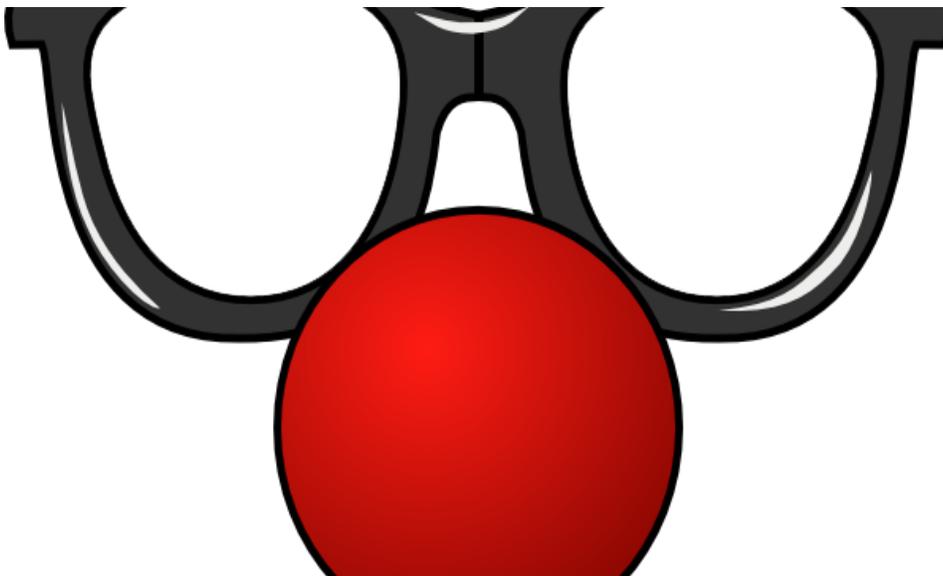
After decades of giant tricks and synchronized dances, the elephants at Ringling Bros. performed their final act Sunday, May 1.

The elephants' last show were in Providence, RI and Wilke Barre, PA, nearly two years before the pachyderms' expected retirement.

In Wilke Barre, members of CFA Tent 178 along with many others were in attendance to watch the final show.

Feld Entertainment, which owns Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, had

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John "Kris Krunch" Kral
MACA President

Greetings My Fellow Clown,

You all may know that this week was the last time the "Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus" elephants performed to delight the public. They are retiring to their Center for Elephant Conservation (CEC). There is a facebook page showing how they are working with these magnificent creatures. Go there and check it out. I found it very interesting.

It was a sad day for us who love these animals. I hope they don't have to get rid of the other performing animals and "clowns" because there will no longer be a circus.

I hope you all are doing well and making plans for a busy summer season for entertaining and bringing smiles and laughter to the folks you meet. Now more than ever this nation and the world need clowns.

Plans for the convention are made and the hotel contract has been signed as you know.

The last newsletter has all the information to date about our fantastic convention.

Also, for any other information you can go to our web site at

midatlanticclownassociation.com.

I would like to thank the editor of the newsletter for pulling together such a great publication. I especially like the fact we can get pictures in color and it doesn't cost extra.

Please think about writing a short biography of your clown character, to be put into the magazine. I for one would like to know more about how and why you started clowning, and what caused you to become the character you are or are striving to become.

We can never learn too much and it will help us in the promotion of the art of clowning.

If someone has a question, please get in touch with me or your State Director, pose the question and we will try to find a knowledgeable clown to answer your question.

Keep in mind elections will be held at the General Meeting. There will be positions being vacated this year and the organization needs a board of directors. Please consider a position on the board to keep MACA going on to "Promote the art of Clowning".

Again, thank you all for being clowns and bringing smiles to the world.

Take care and Keep e'm laff'n.
See you down the road

John "Kris Krunch" Kral

"I love being a Clown" Willie from Philly



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

By Bill "SHOBO" Schober
MACA Chaplain

I love to Laugh

One of my favorite scenes in a movie is when Mary Poppins tries to bring Uncle Albert down from the ceiling because he is laughing too much. The song "I love to laugh" is one of those songs that stays with you all day long. I especially like the lines of "We love to laugh Loud and long and clear... We love to laugh.. So everybody can hear the more you laugh... The more you fill with glee... And the more the glee the more we're a merrier we." I love to laugh, not only because I love being a clown, and that's what Clowns do but because it's more than just a little smile or a giggle. It comes from your belly out your mouth for all to hear. It not only helps you express your feelings but there is a physical benefit to laughing. It was Victor Borge, the famous Danish comedian, to whom we can attribute the quote: "Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."

Research by Dr. Robert Provine Ph.D, professor of Psychology at University of Maryland Baltimore Co, suggest that laughter is a form of communication, probably the first one in the human race. All members of the human species understand it. Unlike English or French or Swahili, we don't have to learn to speak it. We're born with the capacity to laugh.

Laughter is primitive, an unconscious vocalization. Dr Provine explains that babies have the ability to laugh before they ever speak. Children who are born blind and deaf still retain the ability to laugh. Even apes have a form of 'pant-pant-pant' laughter

I found this out 1st hand when I went overseas during a missions trip as Shobo. I was worried what made people laugh in a far off land. I soon found out, Laughter is indeed universal. There is a TON of articles/you-tube videos of the Science of laughter and would be a great

research paper someday.

A few years back I was looking for something different for our Clown alley to do, other than the normal Balloon bash or make-up demonstration and I came across a concept called Laughter Yoga. What better fun would it be for a bunch of clowns to get together and Just LAUGH. I Loved it so much, I decided to get certified so I could teach it to others, even outside our clown family.

So what is Laughter Yoga? Do I need to wear tightly fitted pants and position myself in those odd poses? According to my "Handy dandy" Laughter yoga Certified Laughter Yoga Leader Training Manual, Laughter yoga is defined as a unique exercise routine which combines unconditional laughter with yogic breathing (Prahayama). Anyone can laugh without relying on Humor, jokes or comedy. Laughter is initially simulated as a physical exercise/movement while maintaining Eye Contact with others in the group and promoting child-like playfulness. In Most cases this soon leads to real and contagious laughter.

Why Laughter yoga and not just laughter? Dr Madan Kataia in India, found in his research back in 1995 the benefits of tricking your mind into not knowing the difference between fake and real laughter. Later research by others have confirmed the physical and mental benefits of daily laughter. The Laughter yoga movement is worldwide with over 6000 laughter clubs in over 101 different countries. Laughing normally depends on your mood, the type of humor you like and other outside stimulus. In today's politically correct world, that doesn't leave much room for the joy of Laughter and its benefits. Have you seen some of the Skits on Saturday Night Live lately? Humor has changed.

Charlie Chaplin once said "a day without laughter is a day wasted!" I found several articles in the Huffington post and one said, People have long said that laughter is the best medicine, and we know now of its many positive physiological effects. Laughter is known to reduce pain, reduce stress, increase our body's resistance to disease and improve the function of blood vessels and increase blood flow, which can help protect us against a heart attack and other cardiovascular problems. Laughter can also help us burn calories. There is plenty of evidence on why we should laugh, so why don't we?. Most children laugh from their "Heart", but most Adults laugh with their "Heads". That's one of many reason why children laugh much more than adults.

As Clowns we are always looking for that one Skit, that one joke or gage to help people laugh. We try to remind some of the adults of their childlike behavior by acting child like, and the "kids" can identify what we are doing. Being a clown, I found, it very easy to identify with some of the Laughter yoga Exercises. Being silly is just "flat out" fun. It allows you to live in the here and now and not sweat the small stuff of life. It's allows you to remember the past is the past and the future hasn't gotten here yet, so you might as well just laugh about it. The thought of the "Red Nose Day" campaign is to not only raise much needed funds for the different charities, but it also allows "normal" people to be silly by just while wearing a red nose

Hopefully I'll be able to get all of you in a laughter Yoga class to experience yourself the Joy of Laughing for no reason at all.

Bump a Nose

MACA Information Center

or Things you may not know about MACA

CLOWN SEARCH

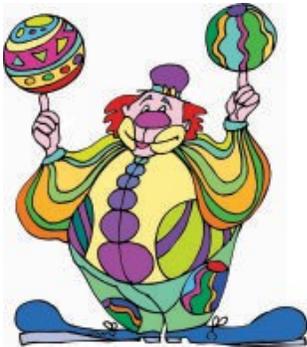
Did you know that the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association provides a way for people to contact it's MACA clowns on our website?

We have a link on the site menu "**Clown Search**" where anyone accessing the site can find a clown in their area to perform. Your listing as a member is free BUT... You need to provide your information. We do not act as a booking agency. The information is there for contact purposes only.

If you would like your contact information to be published on the website, please send your information :

Clown name
Email address
City , State
Phone Number

to the webmaster, Terry Slaymaker
buttonstclown@yahoo.com



Clownatarian

The MACA is the only clown organization that gives a Clownatarian award every year and that's because, we made it up! Way back, when the MACA was being formed 30+ years ago, The Keystone Klowns, made up of several clowns that many of you don't know and most of whom are no longer with us on earth, decided they wanted to give an award to a clown for just being a great person. There was a gentleman who worked with new clowns and who on several occasions paid for registration fees, hotel rooms, etc. for clowns who were just starting out and did not have money to come to a convention. It was decided this fellow was a Humanitarian and hence the name Clownatarian.

This award was never intended as a Clown of the Year type award but as a thank you to a good human being who was always there to lend a helping hand in any way they could to other clowns. For the first, at least 15 years (I am guessing on that number) the trophy award was purchased and given to a person chosen by the Keystone Klowns, but eventually as many of them passed away or left the clown world for various reasons, the MACA decided to take over the presentation of the award.

Over the past several years, the selection committee has consisted of Nellie "Muffin" May (a founding member of the Keystone Klowns and the MACA), Darlene "Daisy" Morgan and George "Porgie" Caban. To be selected as a Clownatarian, a clown is nominated by a member of MACA by submitting a letter to the selection committee stating why this person should be considered for this award. These letters are reviewed without names of the person being nominated or the person nominating them being noted so that the nomination is based on good deeds only.

Nominations have declined significantly in the past several years but the MACA board and officers hope to rearrange this selection committee within the next year to make it easier for you all to make nominations. In the meantime, please send any nominations you have for the 2016 award to me at dotthec clown@comcast.net or to my home 169 Buckingham Dr., Southampton, NJ 08088 and I will see to it that the current selection committee receives your nominations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and I will try to answer.

Sandi "Dot" Smith

Send YOUR Alley News and items you may want to share with other members to the Newsletter Editor.

The MACA Newsletter is distributed bi-monthly and submission are due to the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. (Articles are due by June 20th for inclusion in the July/Aug newsletter).

Please, no hand written articles. Pictures may be blurred if the megapixels are not high enough.

Send articles to Editor: Thom Stevenson at tnpstevenson@verizon.net



said its touring elephants would head to a Florida conservation center by 2018. The animals are going to the facility a bit earlier.

During Sunday's show, the elephants paraded into the stage as they had for years, linked to each other trunk-to-tail. For the last show, the stars spun, frolicked, stood on their hind legs and posed in a headstand. At one point, they even faked a nap, only to rise when the audience yelled "Wake up, elephants!"

Then the parade of elephants sauntered off the stage in the exact way they had arrived, in a slow, synchronized march holding the tail of the elephant in front of them as their last show was streamed live on Facebook. If you missed it, click [HERE](#) to see it.

After their final performance, all 11 pachyderms from both traveling shows travelled south to join the rest of the Ringling Bros. herd of 29 elephants at the **Ringling Bros. Center for Elephant Conservation (CEC)**, a 200-acre facility in central Florida dedicated to the care and conservation of these endangered animals, and home to the largest Asian elephant herd in the Western Hemisphere



MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

Kapo's gang



Lots going on at Kapo's Gang. We had our officer election in Feb since Jan meeting was canceled due to weather, and for some reason everyone pointed their finger at me again when it was time for a president. Other officer were the same too but we added a Newbie to recording sec to make it easier during the business parts of the meeting. Thanks to Debbie for stepping up.

This past April one of our favorite Gang events is the Dolan Fund Sprit of Philadelphia Family boat ride for Special needs Kids and their family. We partner with some other clown alleys in the area.. including Clowns R Us.. What a blessing to be able to live out what the Clown prayer ask us to do as clowns. After a day on the Delaware river, Seeing all the Smiles and needs the Families go through, it's great to go home and kiss your kids and grand kids. March we were also busy helping out with the Katie Krusaders Bowl a thon Fight for Childhood Cancer.

May includes the Ronald McDonald House Fund Raiser at the Philadelphia Airport...They have a Plane Pull event with tons of people there to clown around with.

June - we are at a JDRF Walk in Wildwood NJ and an Alex's lemon aide stand for a our little friend Mario who has 5 inoperable Brian Tumors but has raiser over \$74,000 for childhood cancer.. As you can see, We keep Busy..

We still meet the 4th Tuesday of the month in Maple Shade NJ...Come Join Us some time.

Bump a nose,
Shobo
aka Bill Shober

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

Freestate Clown Alley
Presents:



Circus Season is upon us
in the Mid-Atlantic!



Billy Martin and
GrandMa



Get ready for Red Nose
Day May 26, 2016!

Looking forward to MACA's
2016 convention. Patriotic
Clowns with a salute to our
service men and women!



< St. Baldrick's in Baltimore. No Poppo didn't
go "bald"!

Circus history by Dick Flint >



< Lunch for a bunch of clowns
and a trombonist



Goodies for the Royal
Hanneford Circus >



Convention news



The contract is signed! Dealers and Lecturers are committed!

It is time to register for the most “Xtreme” Convention ever!

The Mid-Atlantic Clowns will be gathering for seminars, competitions, sales, jams, buffets and awards beginning November 9, 2016 at the Red Lion Hotel 4751 Lindle Road Harrisburg, PA 17111. 717-939-7841.

The hotel is a large older resort type hotel with many different types of meeting and conference rooms. We will have access to a ballroom with a built in stage, a large vendor room, a lecture room and a double suite hospitality room which will also house the photographer. Guest rooms are oversized and comfortable. Many open onto the court yard.

The hotel is accessible and pet friendly. There is a restaurant and a bar along with billiards, ping-pong, game room, business office, indoor and outdoor swimming, hot tub and plenty of room for jamming.

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You can call the hotel for reservations and tell them you are with MACA or you can use the following links to go immediately to the website and register.
(control + click to go to website)

Click here to book: [MACA Conference DBL Occupancy](#)

Click here to book: [MACA Conference SGL Occupancy](#)



<Your President signing the contract!



Check out the hot tub Sweetie!>



<Dive right in!

Or just snooze!>



Convention registration—download the form and mail to Sandi—address and details on the form!

Thursday night Theme Buffet —American Heroes— and Gong Show!
Friday night Theme Buffet —M*A*S*H and Honoring the Military— and Dancing!
Saturday Awards Banquet - Red, White and Blue!



<Hotel restaurant!

Capital Diner right down the road!>



Not only educational lectures but exciting presentations by

Barry Mitchell >



Joe Barney>



Mary Ann Ross >



Cheri Venturi >



Annette



Dealer-Terry "Buttons" Slaymaker >



And picture perfect photography by Marilyn Barrett >



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MORE.....

Marcella "Mama Clown" Murad and Silly Farm >



Tricia "Pricilla Mooseburger" Mauel >



Peachey Keene >



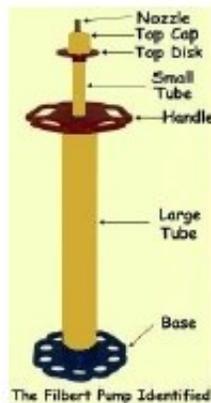
Dave Hill >



Scott Correll >



Peter Glenck Filbert Pumps >



The Filbert Pump Identified



33rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Convention *American Heroes*

November 9-13, 2016

Red Lion Hotel

4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg PA 17111

To register, complete the form below by filling in the blocks on your computer, print out the form and send, with check made payable to MACA Convention, to: Sandi Smith 169 Buckingham Dr. Southampton, NJ 08088. Questions, call Sandi 609-801-2571 or email: dotthec clown@comcast.net.

Full registration fee includes dinner Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Thursday theme - 4th of July and honoring American Heroes - the Gong Show

*Friday theme - M*A*S*H and honoring our military - Dancing with Hot Lips*

Saturday banquet - More RED, WHITE and BLUE - awards presentations

(Theme parties - award for best dressed for theme. Saturday banquet is business casual or dressy.)

Registration Fees:	Full - \$185.00 thru 8/31/16	Daily Rates:	\$60.00 per day (no meals)
	Full - \$195.00 thru 10/31/16	Dinner Rates:	\$50.00 Thurs. and/or Fri. each night
	Full - \$210.00 after 10/31/16		\$60.00 Saturday night banquet

Total registration fees: \$

Hotel room rate - \$85.00 single per night includes breakfast. \$95 double per night includes breakfast for two. Additional persons in room do not get breakfast tickets. You must reserve before 10/26/2016 to be assured this rate. If you make reservations thru Sunday and check out earlier, you will be charged a \$50 fee. (717) 939-7841.

Easy on line check-in available - control + click to go to hotel website

.Control + Click here to book: [MACA Conference DBL Occupancy](#)

Control + Click here to book: [MACA Conference SGL Occupancy](#)

*****Please note*****

\$25 processing fee for cancellations before 10/01/16. No refunds after that date.

Face painting supplies and latex products will be used and sold at this convention.

All are welcome to attend, however, you must be an MACA member and have paid full registration to compete.

Name: Clown Name:

Address: E-mail:

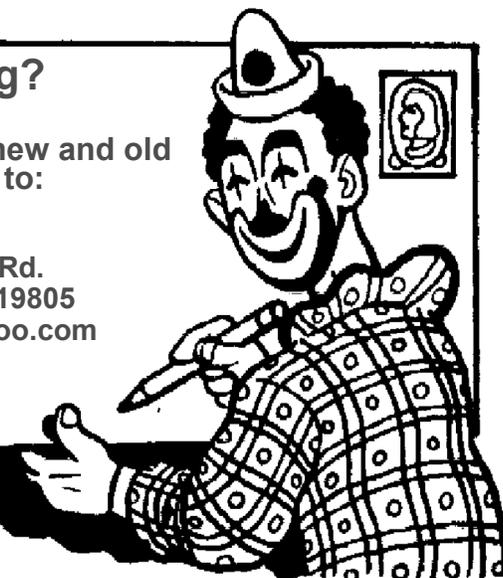
City: Phone:

State: First MACA convention?: No Yes

Moving?

Send both your new and old address to:

Dave Myers
202 N. Dupont Rd.
Wilmington, DE 19805
clickerclown@yahoo.com



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2015-2016 OFFICERS AND STATE DIRECTORS

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