

THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter

Oct/Nov 2016

CONVENTION HOSPITALITY NOTIFICATION

This year's convention, we are inviting a clown alley or organization to host the Hospitality room at the 2016 MACA Convention.

Make it your own

Great way to bring awareness to a worthy cause or just show what your Clown Alley is all about!! Toot Toot!!

Please contact Bill Schober @ shobodaclown@yahoo.com or (856) 423-8214. We need Wed- Sat nights.

Feel free to leave a donation bucket to recoup some of your costs. The room need not be manned in the morning but if you want to keep it open all day, Go for it. It's your room.

Convention Winners

Makeup

Face Painting

Balloons

Skits

If you are attending the 2016 MACA Convention, You will know the winners and...not have to wait until the December/January addition of The Big Top to find out.

Come learn, mingle and have fun with the rest of us.

Register today.

All needed information is in the **Special Convention Newsletter.**



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Why do you go to a clown convention?

Not just because MACA is having the best dang clown convention ever...but we really want to help!

One reason you attend a convention is so that you can meet and pick the clown brains of “famous” and professional clowns. The experts give lectures and classes. They have the answers, the skills, the tools and the merchandise...yes you can go to a convention to BUY more clown stuff. Check out the convention special edition and you will see we have detailed the classes, the teachers, the vendors and all the educational material you can absorb.

A convention isn't all hard work and nose to the grindstone...it is also the hair-raising, rip-roaring and titillating jams and socialization in the hospitality room and hallways!



Or you can compete... We have an awesome and wonderful competition director and a bunch of unbiased judges...well, at least we try really hard! You are nervous –clowns from 7 states are here to compete against YOU!

First, relax-if you are afraid , stressed or sleep deprived, this will affect what you do.

If it's face painting—pick a model with the correct facial shape and skin tone for your creation. Have them wear an appropriate colored shirt/blouse.

If it is a skit—remember the three parts..beginning, middle and the end or the blow off. Try and wear appropriate clothing and have the correct props. The props should be oversized to be seen on the stage. Then practice, practice, practice and practice some more.

If it is balloon sculptures—have a backup pump, double check all your supplies and practice, practice, practice. Don't wear a sweater or material that could cause static.

If it is make-up—look up your clown character standards. Keep your costume/ wardrobe/agent suit CLEAN, shine your shoes, buy new gloves. Make eye contact with the judges.

And above all , relax and have fun! See you in East Harrisburg.

Message from the President...

and Vice President

The weather is turning cooler and Fall approaches. I hope all are well and are looking forward to a fun and job packed holiday season. Now that we are pretty much all electronic, (fb "likes" are up by 123—a total of 645. The Big Top is a pdf file.) my computer broke! Posting messages and reading emails is not technically possible. These thoughts are being sent telepathically to all! And they are mind bending.



Wrap your brain around the fact we only have a couple more weeks before the convention. Please talk up "why go to a convention?". We just added "Caring Clowning" to our lectures. The knowledge gained from lecturers and vendors is invaluable. You talk to experts and it keeps us growing in the art of clowning. It promotes the professionalism we must have and helps to ensure that we pass the knowledge to the next generation or it will just fade into a memory. What you learn from each other jamming or just walking the hallway is immeasurable! The entire experience is rewarding on so many levels.

In today's environment Clowns continue to bring joy to everyone. The world needs more laughter now than ever. Stay positive and share your talents. Share your happy and fond clowning memories with the editor and on fb.

Keep in mind elections will be held at the General Meeting. Share your talents and run for an office. Wait—no, don't run away...I mean consider a position on the board—no, not that wooden slat... Consider a position with a wonderful group of people who are leading clowns to "Promote the Art of Clowning"!

Again, thank you all for being clowns and bringing smiles to the world. Stay positive, stay funny, stay happy and keep 'em laff'n. See you down the road.

John 'Kris Krunch' Kral

MACA's Hero

"I love being a clown" Willie from Philly

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

By Bill "SHOBO" Schober
MACA Chaplain

Have Some Fun

Have some Fun...

This sounds like a crazy request in an article for clowns. Sometimes the "job" of being a clown gets in the way of the fun. Sometime we don't look at the bigger picture. From time to time I get an eerie feeling of not wanting to put on the make up and do my "Schick". But once it's on. It's on and I'm on. Did that make sense? LOL.

At our Campground at the Jersey shore we have a Cardboard Boat race across the Lake during pirate weekend. I've yet to compete as a clown, and most times I'm the only adult who does. One year I made my boat look like a Ritz Cracker box and had a bunch of Pie on it (Pie – Ritz)...another year I had a Phillies Theme as we never root for the Pirates...



Last year I almost drowned my wife as I made my Tool box Cardboard Boat with a handle. I was looking for "Wenches". (LOL) It was too small for me to get in so when my wife could fit it eventually flipped blocking her head from coming out of the water. This year's boat was "I never Win Boat". I didn't put much thought into it and was looking to be the 1st to sink. (I get an ice cream cone for the Titanic Award). My boat,

this year, actually did better than I thought as I got part way across and noticed my competition way ahead of me. The 16 year old was unreachable, but the 2 guys (who's age totaled 50) cut in front of me, so I gapped on while they paddled away...I just looked back at the crowd and Smile. I soon took in too much water and sank to the bottom but not before I kept splashing the water out of where my boat once was. I do this in Fun which was not on display with some of the other kids and parents prior to my race. Some Parents yelled and yelled at the kids to move faster and faster, other kids just sat in the boat and sulked that they didn't win. One little girl was so ticked that her sister was going to ride the boat and not her, she tore it so no one would. Oy Vey!!

...

People need to have fun more often. Some kids need to know it's not always the end result that matters...its how you get there.

I found an article on line by Julie Ostrow on the "Positive Psychology People" web site; the sub title was "Pursuing a Passion. Learning to have fun." We all have a good idea how to put on make-up, buy a nice outfit, buy a Magic trick that looks fun to do but soon find out it's harder than you thought, or you hear and funny joke but when you try to repeat it you forget the punch line. It's that passion that one should look for. What better way than to have fun doing it. So... what do you do for fun? Some people read, some people take classes, some people do things they don't

normally do. Julie Ostrow took an Improve class and found 2 things.

1) To take your time in a scene. You don't need to force or try to improve.

2) Don't try to be funny, Funny will evolve. I think this can be applied to the world of clowning too.

I didn't plan on grabbing onto my completion's boat, but it ended up being funny. I didn't make the boat until an hour prior to the race. I just did it for fun..



The MACA convention is fast approaching. Maybe take a class you never thought you would before. Maybe enter a skit completion and just see what the reaction is. Do it to not only improve your clowning skills but to have FUN...just yesterday I heard a retired professional athlete say he had no regrets on what he did as long as he tried his best.

Find your Passion and have fun!!



MACA Information Center

or Things you may not know about MACA

CLOWN SEARCH

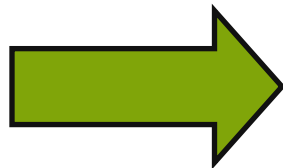
Did you know that the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association provides a way for people to contact it's MACA clowns on our website?

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



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

MACA MEMBERSHIP

Looking for some help in your clowning career ?

Looking to meet some new and some well established clown ?

Join the mid-Atlantic Clown Association (MACA)

Our purpose is to promote the education in and the preservation of the ancient art of clowning.

To become a member, click on this link to apply for [membership](#).

Changing the World One smile at a time

Message from the Secretary

the membership one-

J. David Myers



Dues are Due!

Yes it is that time of year. There was not an individual mailing for renewal.

The Mid-Atlantic Clown Association wants you!

If you have not renewed your membership yet, AND you are attending the convention, you can pay at the door.

If you have not renewed your membership and cannot make the convention, please go to the website (or link found in the special convention addition) complete the form and send your dues to Dave Myers.

If you are new and wish to join, you can do so at the convention or by filing out the form on the website or in the convention edition.

You must be a current member to compete. You do not have to be a member to attend the convention.

All 2016-2017 membership cards will be delivered at the convention at the registration desk. Those not attending will have their cards mailed after the convention.



MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

Kapo's gang took a little bit of time to have some fun this past July. We had our annual Pool Party, but this time we went to Shobo's parent's House. Lots of fun getting together with our spouses. We even had a belly flop contest...

This fall we ramp up our activities by going to one of the "buddy" walks, Light the night walk for Leukemia and the SJ Juvenile Diabetes walk.. We look forward to seeing our extended family at the MACA convention this November.

We Meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at Maple Shade Municipal Building.. the fun starts around 7ish...



Hi, Razzle and Dazzle here (aka Jerry and Carletta Yourich)

Since we love clowning so much we thought we would tell you how we spent clown week (Aug 1-7) this year. First we clowned at a community event with lots of families and had a great time. Next we clowned at a summer lunch program that feed children when school is out. Many of these children never get to see clowns. They loved us making balloon animals and face paintings for them. What a fun day. Then we clowned at our local food



pantry where we made balloon animals and hats for the people as they came in and were they ever so excited to talk with us. We also did a nursing home where we walked around visiting with the residents while twisting balloons for them. They were excited to see us and they always have the cutest things to say. We also stopped at our local restaurant and worked a bus load of customers making balloons for them while they waited for their meals. They absolutely loved us. To finish off the week we entertained at a street fair, a kids fun center at a shopping mall and the local auto racing track. It was a wild week full of lots of fun. Happy clown week !

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

A Clown's Thoughts During Halloween Season

Written by: Renate McIntosh – *Snippy Doodles*

I'm clowning tonight and I think about the children who are coming out to see me. I walk out my door and I hear a young voice, "Clowny! Clowny!" She proceeds to tell me about her day at school. I get into my car and realize her bother is in their car. He and his mom are waving at me as I drive by. I stop at a traffic light and start thinking about the police officer who was stopped next to me at the same light a few weeks ago, how he slowly raised his cell phone, snapped my picture, and then drove away.

My mind is wandering in fifty different directions. I realize I forgot the new magic trick I wanted to use tonight. There's a man driving in the lane next to me trying to take my picture. I wave, he smiles, gives me a thumbs up and drives away. I'm wondering how busy we're going to be tonight. I'm on my way my regular Tuesday night gig. Last week we had people waiting 30 minutes to be seated.

It's a slower night. A new restaurant, across the street, just opened yesterday. I'm talking to an older couple when they point towards the door. I look up to see an eight-year-old boy with a big smile on his face. He comes to see me every week. I always remind him that I have to go to the other tables first. Tonight, he is the first child through the door. An older couple waves me on, "Go do your thing."

"He's waiting!" His smile gets bigger. I'm not sure how that's possible. The boy and I go over to his table and I bring out some sponge balls. He does the magic and we're laughing about it. Then I pull out another trick. Their waiter is watching now. The child does the magic trick; we're all laughing and the mom says, "I wish you were at all the restaurants!" I watch as another family comes in and sits down on the other side of the partition. Two grinning faces keep peeking over the wall. The little guy I'm with asks for a giant ninja guy with a sword. We end up with a giant ninja guy and three swords, and then have a quick sword fight with his mom. I thank them for coming out to see me.

I step around the partition and see that their waitress is taking their order. I head over to another table. I make a simple balloon penguin for the lady and head back to the children who are excitedly waiting for me. All four are watching me expectantly. The youngest yells out, "I want a hat!" He points at a giant balloon hat an adult is wearing. I had made it earlier. I say, "Alien or ninja?" He yells, "NINJA!" I goof around with the other children, dad is smiling. They don't know what they want. I pull out one of my Halloween balloons. The little guy with the hat yells, "I want it!" His sister decides she wants a kitty. While I'm working on the kitty the eight-year-old and his mom are heading out the door. He waves his giant ninja guy at me, smiles, and says, "See you next week!"

I finish my last table of the night. I'm thinking about earlier when someone had dragged me into the bar to talk to a little nine-month old girl. I had brought out my squeaker and squeaked her toes. I squeaked her mom's arm. She started smiling. I squeaked her toes again. I went slow and easy knowing the little one doesn't know what to make of me. Then she rubbed her eyes and yawned. I headed back into the main dining area.

A lady approaches me. "I know you go all over Delaware. How far do you travel?" She asks for my business cards and says she's going to make copies and take them to Kent Island. She says I will be hearing from her.

I'm hungry when I leave. I don't like to wait on them to fix me a meal, so I go through one of my regular drive-thru restaurants. I'm thinking about the stories in the news and I'm happy that this restaurant always asks for a name with the order. I say, "Snippy Doodles." They tell me to drive around and I get to the window. They ask me, "How are you, Snippy?" I tell them I'm doing fine. One of them tells me to be careful. I get my food, thank them, and start to drive away. A man is looking out the window and starts waving at me. I wave back smiling and thinking how much I love this job.

When I get home I check to see if anyone called or emailed me to book an event. There's a lady asking me to do a dinosaur themed birthday party for a one-year-old. My mind thinks back to a party last week where I had some children with special needs. Two of the boys were taller than me. They were so excited. One was waving his hand every time I asked for a helper during my magic show. I called on him for my last trick. I can still see him standing there with a big smile on his face taking a bow as the audience clapped and cheered.

I go back to reading my messages. There is one from a friend. She writes that her 8 year old Liam, who has Asperger's Syndrome, was worried about me and asked, "Is she scared? Tell Snippy Doodles that she makes ME happy!"

My little friends are worried about me. It's almost Halloween and this too shall pass.

After my article was published, there was a wonderful reaction and now lots of blog posts. To read it all go to:

<http://www.fourlittlemonsters.com/index.html?entry=clowns-continue-to-entertain-despite>



MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

HI this is George Caban aka Porgie the Clown.

I would like to share with you something that happened to me at one of my clown shows a long time ago but I will never forget. The birthday party was at a park and everyone was sitting in the bleachers at the ball field. In one of my magic tricks I make sure the kids see me put a scarf behind my back and tuck it in my belt and I say it disappeared and they say you put it behind your back. Most of the time it's the birthday kid that says that and I say were you invited? Every one laughs and then I say sorry it's your party. And I slap my hand and look like oops. Well I did just that to a little girl about 10 to 12 years old. She got up and left the park. Everyone was laughing and I was standing there trying to figure out what went wrong and I asked where she went. What's so funny? And they said she was not a part of the family she just sat down and was watching the show. Man did I feel bad. So after the show I was thinking of trying to find this little girl and apologize then I started thinking boy will that look bad a clown looking for a little girl at a park. Well I just better give up and remember to be careful of what I say and to who I say something too. Has anything like that happened to you! Let's hear from you and something that happened that you will never forget. I hope to see you at MACA soon and I want to hear your stories.

Your friend

Porgie

Ohio State Director and past President

Lois "Ding-A-Ling" Herman

Remember our own Ding-A-Ling? She is long time member of MACA having served on the board in several different capacities, the last and most recent as our Chaplain.

Lois was known for her craziness and I am sure many of you remember some of her Gong Show acts. What a fun, lovely lady and a beautiful Christian Clown. She received the Clownatarian award but I forget exactly what year, but sometime around 2007-08. Now due to failing health, Lois is residing at a rehab/nursing facility with her husband, Dan, who attended many MACA conventions acting as Lois's 'rodie', who suffers from Alzheimer's. They share a room and Lois actually helps a little with Dan's care. When a couple of us from Kapo's Gang visited her last weekend she was thrilled. She recognized me, Dot, and I think Dan did too by the twinkle in his eyes. She showed us their room in which she has as armoire with several pieces of a clown costume and lots of clown pictures. I did notice that she had a bulletin board with a calendar and a witch decoration for Halloween and proceeded to tack one of my picture business cards on that bulletin board and Lois was quite pleased. When I got home, I had the idea that maybe I would ask all of you to send her a picture, either a business card or just a snapshot of yourself in clown to add to her board. I KNOW LOIS WILL LOVE THIS. Her address is below and thanks everyone.

Sandi "Dot" Smith

Lois Herman
Advanced Subacute Rehab Ctr.
685 Salina Rd.
Sewell, NJ 08080

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

Freestate Clown Alley
Presents:



Circus FUN!!!



Zerbini Family Circus



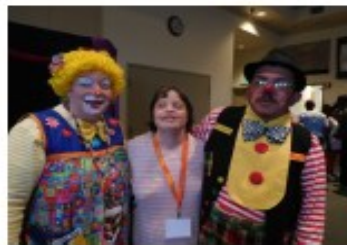
Washer Woman (women)



v Getting ready for the big convention in November!



Clowning for Camp Glow



Skootchee and Ed



Brandon, Thom and Dustin
at American Clown
Academy



Last walk around

Another Gone too soon...making smiles in the Big Top in the sky.

Todd Griffith, Howard Todd Griffith Known professionally known as “Scooter the Clown”, 38, of Fraziers Bottom, passed away on September 19, 2016.

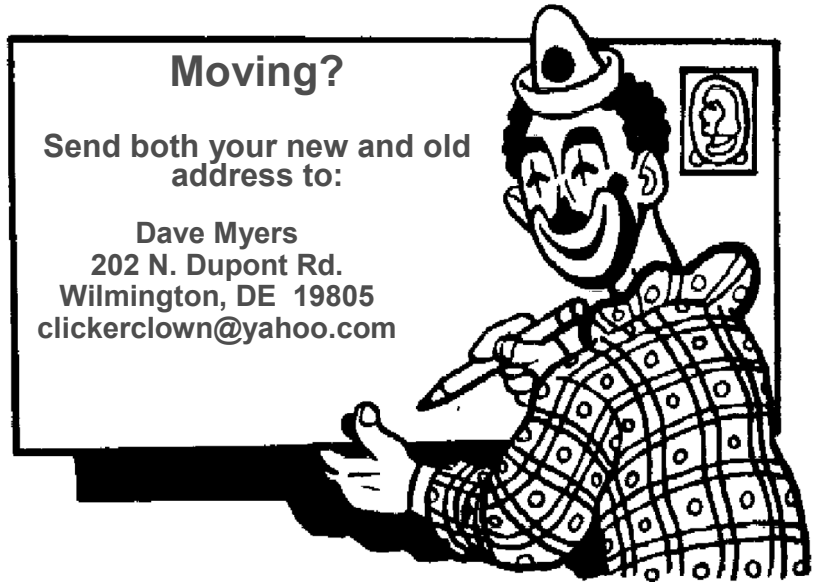
For six years Todd fought brain cancer and continued his profession as a clown.

Todd was preceded in death by his father Harry R. Griffith and is survived by his mother Mary, brothers Sam Griffith, Greg Griffith (Courtney); sisters, Tammy Bright (David), Pam Dalton (Reece); several nephews, Brandon Bright (Ashley), Dillon Griffith, Derrick Akers, Austin Akers, Riley Griffith; and one niece Marissa Williams (Greg); great nephews Holton and Bo; great niece Lilah; special nephews Wessy, Dawson, Seth and Sawyer, and many, many special friends from all over the world.

Todd had many accomplishments such as winning first place in White Face Competition, COAI, in Puerto Rico, six years with Ringling Brothers, Disney on Ice, owning his own entertainment company and many more. He will be missed by family and multitudes of friends..



Freestate Clown Alley with Red unit-Todd is making bunny ears over President Keith Karas



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