

Encyclopedia Speed Rabbita

by Andrew Jillings

Target Group—any

Group Size—15 on up

Time—10 minutes till you are done

Space—any

Activity Level—moderate

Ever since playing Speed Rabbit with Karl Rohnke some ten years ago, it has remained my favorite game. For those unfamiliar with this chaos fest, it is best described by Karl himself on page 63 of *Cowstails and Cobras II*.

...Ask the game initiator to stand in the center of the circle. His/her job is to point to a person in the circle and say either: 1. Elephant, 2. Rabbit, or 3. Cow. The signified individual and the two people to that person's immediate right and left, must perform a ritualized and symbolic pantomime sequence before the center person can count to ten. If the sequence is not done correctly or in

time, then the offending person (one of the three) must take the place of the initiator in the circle. If the sequence is performed correctly, the initiator points to another person until someone eventually makes a mistake or doesn't complete the sequence within the allotted time—count 1–10.

The animal sequences are as follows and, of course, can be (should be) amended, or added to, as play continues.

Elephant—The person pointed to: 1. Extends his/her right arm forward, palm down, hand lightly cupped. 2. Brings the left hand under the arm



and up to pinch the nose. 3. Flaps the right arm up and down, as in flapping their trunk. 4. The two players to the right and left of the flapping trunk must flap their "ears" by waving their hands next to their ears.

All this happens simultaneously before the count reaches ten.

Rabbit—1. Center person hops up and down. 2. Person to the right stomps his/her foot—person to left stomps his/her foot.

Cow—1. Center person interlaces fingers of both hands and presses both palms out away from his/her body, resulting in both thumbs pointing to the ground. 2. Side people must grab a thumb and mime a milking motion.

The idea of collecting together some Speed Rabbit characters came to me recently when I was in the midst of explaining the game to a group of 8–10-year-olds. I had gotten so used to explaining the same three animals every time I played that by the time I got to my third favorite, dog, I realized the way I'd done dog (having the sides peeing on the center hydrant) may not be the best idea. (Hi, Mom, guess what we did at Big Brother/Big Sister today? A weird foreign man taught us how to pee on each other. It was great!) It was at that moment that I got one of those tremendous mind blocks, where I probably couldn't even remember my name, let alone a third Speed Rabbit animal. Professional pride forbids me from repeating what happened after that.

Anyway, I squeezed out an email to the AEE newsgroup/listserves thingy and pretty soon collected these responses. If you have some of your own that you would like to contribute, please email me (ajilling@hamilton.edu) and I will be happy to add to the list.

Alligator

Middle person: Slaps hands together with arms fully extended in front of her to form a mouth.

Side people: Stand behind middle person, hold on to waist in a line and wag the tail.

Alligator, v.2 (profile)

Middle person: Turns left, bends at waist making arms swimming.

Side people: Left side turns left, bends at waist and makes jaws with arms. Right side turns right to make swimming tail with hands clasped and arms out straight moving them from side to side.

Angel

Middle person: Folds hands in prayer.

Side people: Combine to create a halo of fingers over middle.

All sing, "AAAAAH!" in angelic falsetto.

Clint Eastwood

Middle person: Squints, looks tough, with hands on hips.

Side people: Point (imaginary) guns and yell, "Make my day!"

Couch Potato

One side person gets on all fours like a couch, person in middle "sits" on her with the remote, second side person forms a TV box with arms.

Cow

Middle person: Interlocks fingers together and turns them upside down, thumbs pointing down like an udder.

Side people: Each milk a thumb.

Dog

Middle person: Hands on hips to make a fire hydrant.

Side people: Lift their legs on hydrant.

Elephant

Middle person: Extends arms in front like a trunk (a few variations of what constitutes a trunk exist), and makes an elephant noise.

Side people: Make big ears with their arms.

Elvis

Middle person: Strikes an Elvis pose and says, "Uh-huh uh-huh."

Side people: Screaming fans!

Fish

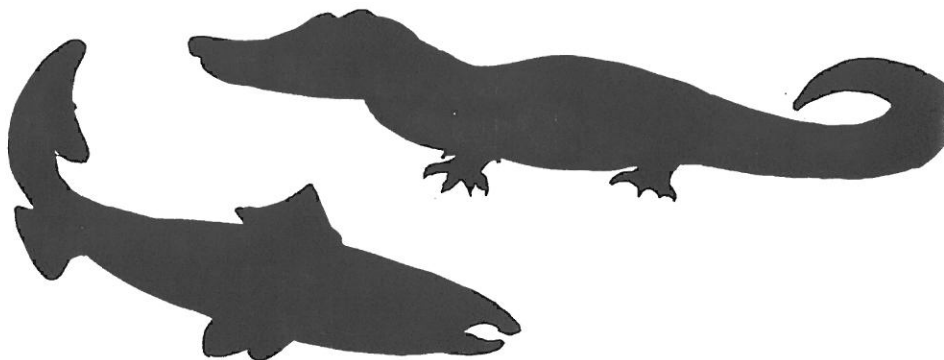
Middle person: Extends hands above head like diving, and then flops around.

Side people: Reel fish in.

Flight Attendant

Middle person: Pulls down oxygen mask.

Side people: Fingers point away to the emergency exits.



Fourth of July

Middle person: "Explodes" like a firework upwards, both hands over head, fingers out, with a loud "boom!"

Side people: Explode down and away from Middle, arms and fingers outstretched, also "boom!"—a good hip swing adds much fun.

Giraffe

Middle person: Arms together straight over head.

Side people: Make circles with their hands in front of middle person at two different heights (spots).

Hippo

Middle person: Makes big chomping jaws with arms.

Side people: Shake hips.

Horse

Middle person: Neighs as best he can.

Side people: Do their best Monty Python gallop on their legs.

Jello

Middle person: Arms above head and wobbles.

Side people: Hold hands around the Middle to make a bowl.

John Travolta

Middle person: Does the pointer-finger-up-down part (and you know what I'm talking about).

Side people: Do the hand-roll thing (hands round and round each other vertically).

All three sing, "Stayin' alive, stayin' alive, ah ah ah ah..."

Monkey

Middle person: Covers eyes (see no evil).

Side people: Right covers ears (hear no evil), and left covers mouth (speak no evil).

Monkey, v.2

Middle person: Scratches both armpits.

Side people: Pick fleas off Middle's head (and eat them with great joy).

Moose

Middle person: Makes fists with both hands and puts them together like holding a baseball bat, then puts fists to nose.

Side people: Hold arms up facing middle to form antlers.

Ostrich

Middle person: Sticks head in the hole.

Side people: Hold each other's elbows in front of Middle to make a hole in the sand.

Palm Tree

Middle person: Puts arms up similar to Rabbit.

Side people: Do a hula dance.

Rabbit

Middle person: Raises both arms high overhead to make ears.

Side people: Thump feet.

Salmon

Middle person: Flaps hands next to face (gills).

Side people: Leap up frantically over (imaginary) waterfalls.

Seal

Middle person: Points nose to the sky and makes seal noises.

Side people: Use their outer hands to clap in front of the seal.

Skunk

Middle person: Turns sideways and bends over.

Side people: Right side holds nose. Left side fans hands and makes spraying sound.

Spirit of '76

Middle person: Holds the flag.

Side people: Right side plays the drum. Left side plays the flute.

All three march in unison.

Shark

Middle person: Holds arms bent (elbows towards the front) in front of face and opens and closes like a shark's mouth.

Side people: Each put one hand up over the head of the Middle to make shark's fin (fingers pointing up).



Andrew Jillings has been an Associate Trainer for Project Adventure since 1992, mostly doing customized skills refreshers. Since August of last year he has been co-ordinator of Adventure Programming at Hamilton College, with a ropes course, an Outing Club and a freshling wilderness orientation program to call his own. He is English. He enjoys whitewater kayaking, mountain biking and the books of Patrick O'Brian. Karl Rohnke and Andrew built the mud traverse at the Iron Rail in Hamilton, MA, and he's never forgiven Karl.