



TOTALLY TUBULAR

The Hula Hoop is back.

Another fad has come full circle. But today's "hoopers" don't use your parents' Wham-O; they prefer larger, heavier rings, usually handmade with irrigation pipe. Uptown yoga instructor Jessica Reiter, 34, picked up on the trend a few years ago and now teaches regular hooping classes throughout the Twin Cities.

WHY IS THE HULA HOOP MAKING A COMEBACK?
It's fun, it feels good and it's healthy. If I'm having a bad day and I start to hoop, my day gets better.

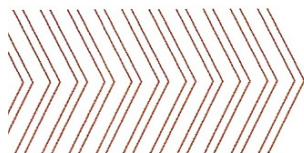
HOW WERE YOU INTRODUCED TO IT?
I first saw hoopers at Burning Man festival [an annual art event in Nevada's Black Rock Desert]. I was amazed by it and a little too shy at that point in life to try it in front of everyone. So I came home, built a hoop and taught myself in my backyard. I was surprised at how easy it was with a larger, heavier hoop.

WHAT'S A HOOP JAM?
A hoop jam is a time and a place and a space for people to get together and hoop. It's kind of akin to going out dancing, when you can lose yourself in the music and not worry about anything. I have a local DJ [DJ Armchair] who spins world music that I find extremely hoop-able. I provide the hoops and we try to find and decorate a space. It's just a free time of movement and exploration. —Dan Haugen

GETCONNECTED
THE SECOND-ANNUAL MINNEAPOLIS HOOP JAM
Saturday, March 29, 6–8 p.m.
1940 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; harmonyhoops.com

.COM

Her hoops don't lie: Jessica Reiter brings another childhood fad full circle. Go to metromag.com for video of her moves in action.



**R.I.P.
TOY KING
RICHARD
KNERR**

IF THERE'S ROOM IN HEAVEN FOR ALL DOGS, THE SAME MUST BE TRUE OF CHILDREN'S TOY MAKERS. RICHARD KNERR, THE CO-FOUNDER OF WHAM-O, DIED ON JANUARY 17 AT THE AGE OF 82. KNERR GAVE US THE FRISBEE, THE SUPER BALL, THE SLIP 'N SLIDE AND, YES, THE HULA HOOP.

