



MAGI CURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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Dave Cox

Our Installation Banquet Performer

Dave Cox, our upcoming annual banquet performer, has been performing comedy and magic professionally for 20 plus years, starting as a wee lad in a teeny tiny top hat, going on to win awards, direct other magician's shows, and appear in major commercials for Full Tilt Poker, Arby's, Panasonic, and as that Amazing Red Robin Guy.

Dave will present an entertaining, action packed show for all ages... something LA Weekly calls, "Mind Boggling Wit and Panache!" Come join in on the fun at our banquet on July 15th with your friends and family and enjoy The Dave Cox Show!

— *Syd Segal*

Installation Banquet!

This year we are going to have our annual award banquet at the Near East Buffet, 555 Montrose Ct, El Cajon, 92020. It will be on Sunday, July 15th starting at 5pm. Please note that this is Sunday and not our usual meeting night. It is an Oriental buffet featuring all you can eat dishes for the far corners of the Far East. All tastes and dietary needs will be met.

To get there simply go on highway 8 East to the Magnolia exit and bear to the right. Turn right on Magnolia, going south, then make the first right hand turn, which is Madison Ave. The first right after that is Montose ct. Just look for the Motel 6 sign.



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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER – EDITOR@RING76.COM



On top of the presentation of awards and the swearing in of our new Board of Directors, this event will feature the magic of Dave Cox, who you will be reading about in the next Ring Newsletter.

Seating is extremely limited this year. All Ring members in good standing are invited and may bring one guest. The cost is just \$15 per person (firm) and that includes the buffet, tea and soft drinks, and the show.

Because seating is limited you must contact Richard Ustick with your RSVP no later than July 11th. You may either call him at 619-589-1913 or e-mail him at rustick@flash.net. After that date, if we still have openings, additional guests may be invited. However, as of now, one member and one guest only please, and, members must be in good standing (paid their dues). For the banquet, you will be paying at the door and hands will be stamped.

Any Questions, contact Richard Ustick, Treasurer.

— Richard Ustick

Ring 76 Goes High-Tech!

The theme for our June meeting was High Tech Magic. The meeting was called to order at 7PM by President Kenny Shelton, and began with quite a bit of Ring business. Members voted for Member of the Year, and for two people to serve as

Members-at-Large on the 2012-13 Board; other Board positions were uncontested.

The newly elected Board consists of:
President, Derek Ostovani
1st Vice President (Entertainment), Syd Segal
2nd Vice-President (Membership), James Thayer
Treasurer, Richard Ustick
Secretary, Bob Meigs
Sgt.-at-Arms, Donna Greenbaum
Members-at-Large, Sherry Luft and Joe Mystic
Immediate Past-President, Kenny Shelton

This Board will be sworn in at our annual Installation and Awards Banquet, which will be at the Far East restaurant on Sunday, July 15. Dave Cox will entertain at the banquet.

Kenny introduced new member Matt King; Matt performed at the Ring’s pro-bono show at Father Joe’s Villages on May 24, which will serve as his membership audition. Syd Segal announced that he has arranged a lecture by Francis Menotti on June 13.

Bob Meigs opened our high-tech magic night with a skit called Double Levitation; Kenny Shelton and Donna Greenbaum assisting. Bob also led the Ring in singing Happy Birthday to member Joel Moskowitz.

Chuck Cook performed a routine he called, Let There be Light, with the assistance of Alex Greenbaum. Larry Samuels followed with a very entertaining card production that he called Insufficiently Advanced Technology.

Alex Greenbaum then performed an original routine called Neuralizer, with assistance from John Hunter, Greg Wauson, and Chuck Cook. Jeff Marcus followed with a series of routines, including Chaos Case, Secret of the Spinks, and Spirit of the Coffin, with assistance from Syd Segal, Nick Benevento, and Tom Owen-Towle.

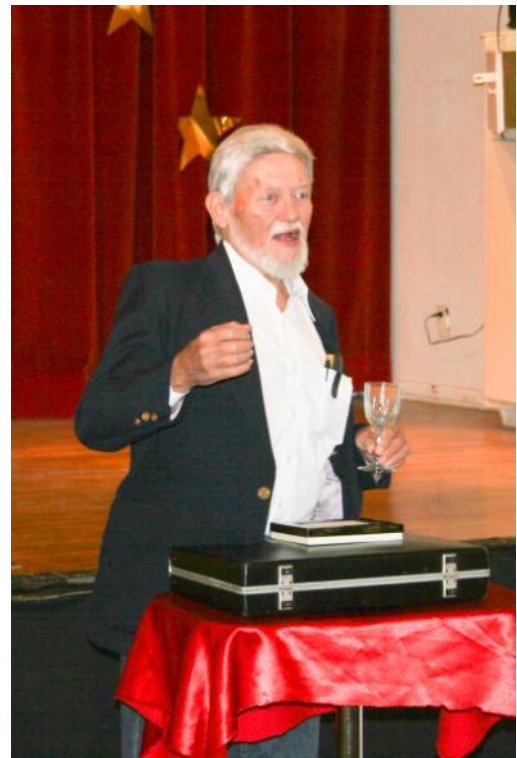
Jeff Pearson performed Mystic Mind Ball, with Syd and Nancy assisting, and Leo Sy closed with a greatly expanded version of My Favorite Rope Trick.

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Photos from the June Meeting



Bob Meigs



Chuck Cook

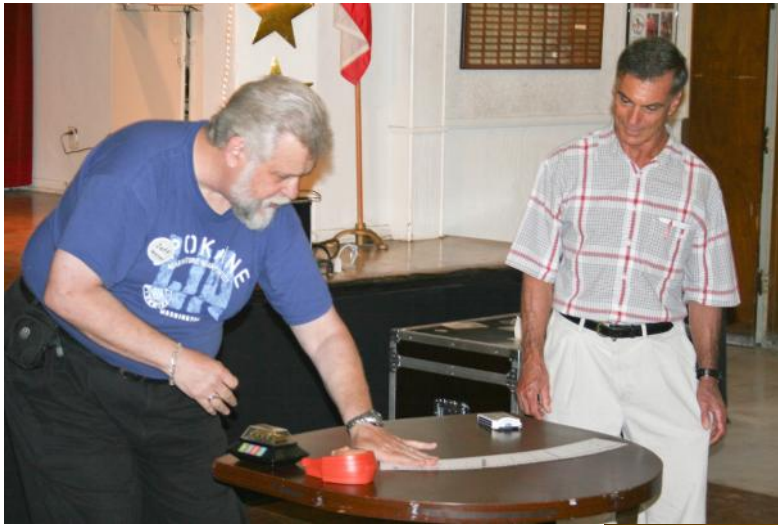


Larry Samuels



Alex Greenbaum (2nd from left)

Photos from the June Meeting



Jeff Marcus



Jeff Pearson (center)



Leo Sy



Performers for June

BASIC TRAINING

by Ian Kendall

Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D
June 11, 2012

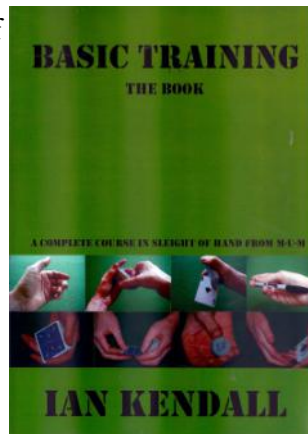
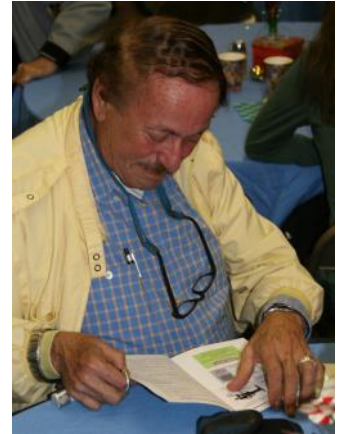
The title is deceptive. It is not, in fact, a military manual. Rather it is an essential approach to becoming expert in sleight of hand.

Perhaps most I.B.M. members are also members of S.A.M. In which case, they might have noticed and enjoyed a special column devoted to an introductory course for beginners interested in sleight of hand. It turned out to be more, much more. Ian Kendall was the host. He flavored the 36 lessons with two e-books that he wrote. Michael Close accepted the editorship of M.U.M. in 2008. He declaimed that magic secrets are available via the goggle of electronic devices but it fails to address how to learn something i.e. pedagogical. Compared to music which is rich with preparatory and instruction, magic is dearth with such valuable educational tools.

Michael Close attempted to refine the instruction in his various Workers pamphlets. In 2005, while lecturing in Edinburgh, Close chanced upon Ian Kendall who shared his thinking about teaching methods for magicians. Kendall's column entitled 'Basic Training' won appreciation and awards, Leslie Guest for achievement in writing. Now all magicians can have access to all 36 columns plus.

Dial up www.LuLu.com and you can order (\$48.06) this Perfect-bound Paperback of 249 pages (8,26 wide x 11.69 tall) with Black and White photographs. If your approach to learning magic is to glom on to the secret and go on to perform, you need this book desperately. The author has blended the many aspects of teaching he has learned and applies it to magic instruction. He dissects the four stages of learning into: rote, understanding, application and correlation. Don't be put off by this 'jargon'.

Kendall begins by telling the reader that he observes Vernonesque maxims i.e. 'be natural' and 'use your head'. His initial offering is "The Ghost Count" better known as "The Elmsley Count". The reader may well ask, "Isn't this an archaic way of instruction....what about DVDs and iPads?" There is one fault: the diligent student will not break his back but he/she may break the back of the spine of the book. It is a logistical feat to wedge the pages open so that the student can follow the text, while practicing the sundry moves. But a used book is a good book.



Onward: The Double Lift; The French Drop; Physical aspects of performing, posture, projecting your voice; Card Controls - Selections, Multiple Cut, Spanish and Simple; Jordan Count, Vernon thru the hand, Buckle turnover, Twisting; False Transfers - ; recalling Anneman's 202 methods of forcing, Kendall launches into careful exposition of the facets of successful forcing; aspects of the Hamman Count and beyond; Aspects of the Boy Scout motto "Be prepared" applied to the signed card and general advice; Using ambidextrous talents to deceive; Overhand slop shuffle leads off this chapter and more than full deck control, riffle wonderments; If you are all fingers, consider a Thumb Tip and Ian tells you what to do with it; Elegant advantages of the Hindu Shuffle; Chop Chop Chop Chop Cup - Paul Wilson's variants as compared to Ian Kendall's; Sea shells Not!, Coin shells, Yes! Utilizing this useful gimmick is subject of a chapter; Venues: Street, Strolling, Functions, Restaurants, Formal Close Up; Shaping your repertoire to the performing environment and the definition of a professional (Sammy Davis) 'doing a good job even when you

(Continued on page 6)

(High Tech — Continued from page 2)

The evening must have set a Ring record for the number of members assisting!

At the end of the evening, Bob Meigs presented all members who have performed for the Ring during 2011-12 with a pair of tickets to the San Diego County Fair, where many members of Ring 76 will be performing between June 8 and July 4. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40, and the usual crew continued on to Rudfords coffee shop.

— Bob Meigs

Coming Up in August

Our August meeting will present a new theme for our Ring 76 members to congregate for. This meeting will be the ever exciting field of Mentalism. Bring out

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



“And do you, Magic Marvin, take Alice Allure to be your beautiful and capable assistant?”

your mental epic, book tests, and serial bill divination routines and be prepared to wow the crowd with your impossible feats of mental prestidigitation. If you are interested in performing, please contact me at btl6380@aol.com or simply speak to me at the banquet on July 15th. As always, if you would like to perform but perhaps not to theme, no problem. Simply let me know and if we have time, we will squeeze you in on the back end of our meeting.

— Syd Segal

(Basic Training — Continued from page 5)

don't feel like it.; A dissertation on the Ambitious Card effect; If you know twenty ways to control a card but only one way to produce it, you are said to know only one trick but the reverse will give you a repetition - Hugard and Tenkai moves only a small sampling of what this chapter contains; Anatomy of the muscles of the hand and the classic palm; Two in the hand, one in the pocket - a three ball routine; String the magician up! Three unequal ropes; Many ways with one way decks; Mastering Stars of Magic Vernon's Spellbound; Card changes changed including Rub a Dub; What do you with a Stacked Deck which you have managed to maintain; This chapter is Knot for you.; Don't drop the ball - juggling; Now you write about this? The Classic Force; The familiar charge: "Its up his sleeve." It is true but how.; Card to pocket variations; You won't find this in a gym - the muscle pass.; Have only one coin? Here is what to do with it.; Adaptability You have to read this to understand; Final (not really) thunks (thoughts) and on and on and on, at the bottom of the book, "The Top Change."

This is an encyclopedia of experience. "Professor" Ian Kandall has shared hints, recommendations, cautions, encouragements, gleaned for his own magic life story. It is valuable compedium to be studied, tasted, digested.

Dr. Joel Moskowitz prescribes this for the want-to-be magician, and even for the professional in the art of wizardry. Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx (5/5)



Request for Feedback on Ring 76 Contests

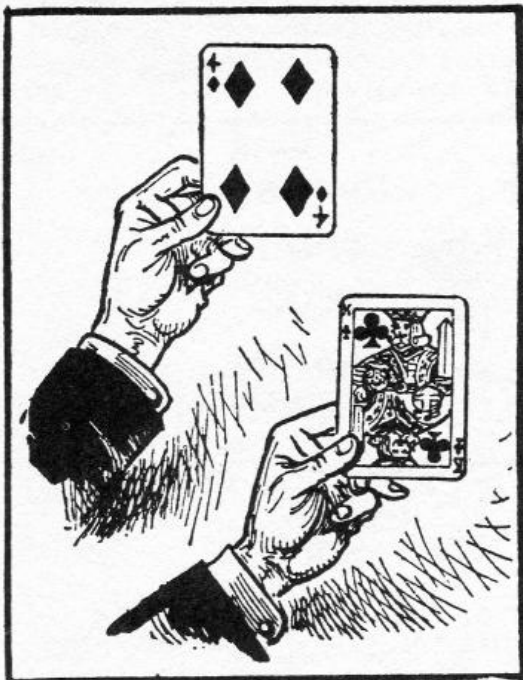
The 2011-12 Board has had many discussions over the course of the past year regarding our Close-Up and Stage Competitions. One result of these discussions has been to codify the rules and procedures under which our contests have been conducted.

There are two topics that have been discussed at length and we would like your feedback regarding these ideas. What would you, the membership, like to see?

First topic: Should We Change the Judging?

It's been suggested that we could use a more sophisticated scoring criteria for judging than the simple "every member votes for who they like." Contestants would be rated on various aspects of their performance and the best overall score would win.

An advantage of such a scheme would be that the performers would get better feedback on their act. A disadvantage is the increased complexity that such scoring would entail.



Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

July 15 Installation Banquet

Aug 13 Mentalism*

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

One possible implementation would be to follow the IBM contest model with a panel of judges that chooses 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. A Peoples Choice Award would also be selected by simple vote of the audience.

Second Topic: Should We Have Two Divisions?

Suggestions have been made to the Board that perhaps we should have separate divisions in our Close-Up and Stage Competitions. The divisions would be "masters" and "hobbyists". The idea is that those new to magic, or who perform only as a hobby, might not feel they can compete with the more accomplished members of the club.

We do not yet have a working definition of "masters" and "hobbyists," but it may fall along the lines of those who have previously won one of these contests, and those who have not. Thus, the winner of the Hobbyist class would move into the Masters class in future competitions. There have been other possibilities also discussed as well. There has been a lot of discussion whether members could choose to promote themselves to the Masters division if they wished to compete with the best.

So what you think?

Either of these changes would be a significant change over what we have done in the past. While these are things that we are considering, neither is something that we would undertake lightly nor would we do so without your input.

So we are asking you to tell us what you think. Corral a board member at a meeting! Send us an e-mail (officers@ring76.com)! Beam your mental images to us! Do whatever it takes but above all, please tell us.

— James Thayer



Have You Paid Your Dues Yet?

Just a final reminder that Ring 76 dues are due and should be paid to the Treasurer, Richard Ustick. If you have not paid your dues then you cannot be a member in good standing, you cannot partake in the events we have planned for the Ring this upcoming year, and this will be your last newsletter.

So get those dues in the mail today. \$25 and make the check out to Ring 76. Send it to Richard Ustick, Treasurer Ring 76, 251 Thrasher Way, El Cajon, Ca 92020.

If you have any questions please contact Richard at rustick@flash.net.

— Richard Ustick

Magic Notes

Trevor Duffy is an award-winning comedy magician and innovator residing in South Africa. He will be lecturing at: Place: 3 Generations of Magic; 741-B Olive Ave.; Vista CA, 92083 on Tuesday July 17th, 2012 at 7pm. The cost will be \$20



Danny Orleans, Chicago based magician and trick reviewer for Genii Magazine, will be in town presenting his unique lecture on performing close-up and stand-up trade show magic. Learn from one of the countries best about how he entertains the throngs of crowds at his trade show and corporate events. The lecture will be on Wednesday August 1st at the North Park Lions Club (3927 Utah St., San Diego) starting at the



usual 7:00pm. As always, the parking lot will be open for those attending the lecture to park in. The cost of the lecture is \$20 per person and I do seat you according to when you reserve the seat. Please contact me at 619-300-1344 or bt6380@aol.com to reserve your seats or if you have any questions.



"No performer should attempt to bite off red-hot iron unless he has a good set of teeth."

— Harry Houdini



The Web Mage (James Thayer) would like to thank Don Soul for his help in filling in many of the names in the Ring 76 Hall of Fame (see our web page at www.ring76.com).

But the Web Mage still needs some help. Do you know who was Member of the Year for the years 1980-1988 or 1991-92? Do you know any of the Ring 76 Presidents prior to the year 1990? If so, please send an e-mail to the Web Mage at webmage@ring76.com



"Magic is a form of theater that depicts impossible events as though they were really happening."

— Teller

