



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

FEBRUARY 2017

VOL. XXXI #2

President's Message

By Joe (Mystic) McGrievy

Greetings from your President.
No , not Trump, just Joe Mystic.

If you were lucky enough to be at January's meeting, you saw a very good mixture of magical entertainment. Thanks to the eleven people who competed and the two extra performances.



Congratulations to Ken Intriligator who was the Performer of the Month.

I want to urge all of you to keep an eye on your emails, as we are meeting in different places depending on theme and availability.

We are looking for a single meeting place that will meet all of our needs. I am asking that all of our members look around for possibilities: Meeting halls, places with a banquet room, private schools, libraries, lecture halls, theaters or churches. Just keep your mind open to what is around you.

We need a place big enough to have our swap meets and close-up competitions where we have multiple tables that need to be separated. We need to have enough parking, chairs and tables for us to use. It's a lot to ask, but I know there are places out there that will accept a small monthly fee or better yet, barter for magic shows. Don't just read this, look for a place we can call home base.

I am looking forward to a large turnout of competitors in our close-up competition in February. Practice up and may the force be with you.

Ring 76 2017 Calendar

Feb	11	Scott Alexander (Free lecture.)
Feb	13	Close-up Competition
Mar	13	Teach a Trick*
Apr	10	Kids Magic*
May	8	Stand-up Competition
Jun	12	Elections, Food Magic*
Jul	tbd	Installation Banquet
Aug	14	Magic with Bags*

*Opportunity for Members to Perform

San Diego Ring 76 meets the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting is at the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club

2606 N. Mission Bay Dr, San Diego,
CA 92109

7:00 pm

On February 13, 2017

Direct any questions concerning the calendar to VP Entertainment Richard Ustick, ru9@ring76.com.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76**

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER - MALCOLM CAMPBELL, EDITOR@RING76.COM

PROOFREADER - SHERRY LUFT, PHOTOGRAPHER - JAMES THAYER



*Next Membership Meeting
7:00 pm Monday, February 13, 2017*

San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club

2606 N Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109



The facility is across the road from the De Anza RV park and next to Mission Bay Golf Course.

From I5 take Clairemont Drive W. toward Mission Bay Park. Turn right on N. Mission Bay Dr. Follow N. Mission Bay Dr. North which eventually curves left around the north side of the defunct De Anza RV park. After passing the golf course on your right (and several “dead end” signs,) the Boat Club will be on your right. If you miss it, better have your oars ready.



SAN DIEGO RING 76, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting January 23, 2017



The meeting was called to order by President Joe (Mystic) McGrievy at 7:30 pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer – Bob Meigs reported that we are carrying a comfortable balance with no bills outstanding.

Library – Kenny Shelton reported that the library is properly stored in a safe and dry location unaffected by the recent storms and flooding. Sample materials will be brought to the next membership meeting.

Membership – James Thayer reported that we have 64 members, down from 69 this same time last year. There are 3 potential new members pending.

OLD BUSINESS

January Membership Meeting -- All agreed that the performer turnout and the material presented was outstanding. Our visitor from France, Josselin Nespoux, gave an impressive performance. There were comments and suggestions about the room arrangement which was generally considered good except for the interference from the entry door. At the next meeting at Denny's, more performing room will be provided by moving a table or two and moving away from the door.

February Membership Meeting – The theme will be the Close-up contest. It is planned that it will be held at the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club. There will be a rotation setup with a maximum

of 8 contestants, each allocated a maximum of 10 minutes.

Scott Alexander Lecture – The free lecture will be at Denny's at 2:30 pm on Saturday, February 11. The lecture is free to members, \$20 for non-members.

Meeting Location – We still have the need for a permanent meeting place. Several were discussed but there was no plan formulated to investigate them. Members are encouraged to look for suitable locations in their area.

NEW BUSINESS

Contest Judging – The Board agreed to stop the practice of having a judging panel separate from the membership for the Close-up and Stand-up competitions. Winners will be determined by a simple vote of the membership in attendance.

March Membership Meeting – The March 13 theme will be Teach-In. We will try to get the Boat Club but may have to settle for Denny's.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Malcolm Campbell, Acting Secretary

“When you fail, hesitate to blame others. When you succeed, be quick to give credit where due.”



Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting October 11, 2016

The meeting was convened at 7:00 pm by **President Joe “Mystic” McGrievy** in our “old” location, at Denny’s. Joe welcomed the crowd of 33 members and 3 guests and had the visitors introduce themselves.

Josselin Nespoux, a magician from France is in San Diego for six months. Two out-of-town, non-magician friends of a ring member, came to see the performances.

Joe explained that our “new” venue, the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club, is unreliable because they sometimes have their own events on Monday nights. For now, we will meet sometimes at the Boat Club (if available) and sometimes at Denny’s (if not). Joe encouraged members to keep an eye out for other possible meeting venues.

Cary Schaffner again mentioned two possible meeting places in Santee. Joe said that he did a test drive from San Diego out to Santee one Monday evening, and the traffic was brutal (and much worse than that in the opposite direction).

Announcements

There is a free lecture by Scott Alexander on Saturday February 11, 2017. The location will be Denny’s at 2:30pm. Scott was invited by Cary Schaffner who will be performing with him at the Comedy Palace that evening. Tickets: <http://www.ticketfly.com/event/1398587-magic-comedy-magicians-san-diego/>

Member-at-large (Past President), and Librarian **Kenny Shelton**, announced that he is performing at Balboa Park, in the main area by the museums, and encouraged members to stop by.

Program

Vice President of Entertainment, **Richard Ustick**, started the performances off by explaining this month’s theme: “New to Me” magic. Richard has been studying the history of playing cards, and

shared an interesting first installment, telling us, for example, that the first known reference to playing cards was from 1377, and that its phrasing showed that playing cards were already well known at that time. He will share more of the history at future meetings which we will look forward to.

The first performer was **Cary Schaffner**, who did a professional caliber hilarious magic comedy routine that he credited to **Scott Alexander**. The concept was reminiscent of the Banana / Bandana instructional recording routine, but with Siri giving the directions, and a glass of Coke poured into a spectator (**Bob Meigs**) victim’s shoe.

Things were looking bad for Bob’s nice shoe when the liquid was poured in — with no glass in the shoe — before Siri explained that the magician should not actually do that. The glass was put in, empty, afterwards. Then - presto - the glass was removed from the shoe, with all the Coke safely in the glass. Not only was the shoe dry, but it contained paper confetti (whew for Bob’s shoe)!

Next up was **Ken Intiligator** who, in keeping with the “new to me” theme, said that he would try (for the first time at a Ring meeting) a routine with a deck of cards, even though cards are scary and he prefers coins.

Before opening the card box, an Eisenhower dollar appeared in his hand, and then jumped up to the other hand, but he said “no coins”, and put it away. The cards were shuffled, the configuration of faces were shown in a fan, noting that this is one possibility out of 52-factorial possibilities, which is numerically similar to one atom out of all the atoms in the visible universe.

The cards were dribbled, a spectator was asked to say “stop”, and the audience was shown the card while Ken looked away. Without the card being named, this was repeated with a second card.

Ken offered to reveal the two cards only if the audience agreed that this was just a warmup, and that he could do the real routine afterwards. The audience agreed, and the two selected cards were successfully revealed (“a lucky guess..”).

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Ken followed with a routine based on Juan Luis Ruiables' "This is not a card trick": Ken said that now he would pick the cards, drew one from the deck and placed it on the table. An audience member was asked what card they intuitively thought it was.

This was repeated three times, with Ken each time saying that they must have somehow seen the card, and the audience member saying no. Then the first punchline: "this is actually a coin trick, after all", and the four face-down cards on the table were slid back to reveal that they each covered a half-dollar. Then the four coins were flipped over to reveal that they each had a word on the other side: "These" "are" "your" "cards". The four cards were flipped over to reveal that they were all indeed those that the audience members had divined.

Next up was **Charlie Gott** who did a gospel magic routine involving some ropes, which were threaded through a wooden block that said "sin". Jeff Pearson and Cary Schaffner assisted, each holding one end of the ropes. The block was covered with a silk and it was noted how people can free themselves from sin. Magically, the block fell to the floor, and the silk was removed to show the ropes were intact, with the assistants holding the ends the whole time. They were freed, and we could all see that the sin block on the floor was normal.

Jeff Marcus then brought out two Rubix cubes. One of the cubes was tossed to a spectator, who was asked to play with it, — with Jeff looking away — until they were satisfied that they had choose some random configuration to their liking. Their cube was handed to Jeff, and he held both side-by side, showing that his cube had precisely the same color configuration as theirs, for all six sides.

He then asked the audience to time him while he solved the cube, one handed, behind his back. He faced so that we could see the cube the whole time, and watch the progress as he solved the cube behind his back in an impressive 27 seconds!

Next was **Dr. Jeff Pearson**, Who was dressed in

a jacket and tie. (It turned out that the tie was an integral part of his effect.) He explained that he was doing an effect called "The Gold Standard" that is marketed by David Regal, and which David sent to him gratis as a thank-you for performing magic gratis for charity organizations.

He had a spectator on one side of the room select a card, and show it only to that side of the room. Then he turned to the other side of the room, to see if a spectator on that side (Sherry Luft) was in synch and could divine first the color, then the suit, then high or low, and finally the card - and she did: it was the four of diamonds.

Sherry, and those on that side of the room, were in on a joke: the card was right there, pinned to Jeff's tie! The card somehow just magically appeared there, pinned to the tie, as soon as he turned his back to the spectator who picked the card. Then he turned back toward the other side to reveal the carded tie, which even had a pinhole from the tie pin.

Alfonso Vazquez, followed, sharing an inspirational memory from when he was a kid seeing a magician for the first time on a bus in Mexico, and how he still remembers the magician pulling a coin from his ear. He held up a Ziplock bag containing two coins, a copper and silver.

Mo Sepassi was asked to choose one. The bag was rubbed and, magically, one of the coins passed through the plastic wall of the bag, and was now on the outside.

Terry Godfrey, produced a large Chinese coin, seemingly from thin air. The coin was shown to apparently bend like rubber. Then the coin disappeared!

Kenny Shelton was next. Kenny performed an effect that he learned from Martin Lewis (who last spring gave an excellent lecture for our Ring).

A deck of cards was split into three packets, and each was given to a different spectator to shuffle. Each spectator was asked to pick a card from their packet and to show it around. The packets were passed back to Kenny, who put three cards down on the table, each time putting the card on the table

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(Continued from page 5)

before asking the spectator to reveal their card. The three cards were then picked up and fanned; they were indeed those selected by the spectators!

Next up was **Greg Wauson** who told us that he would demonstrate his ability to use smell to identify the mint where dollar bills were printed.

Audience members were invited to each take out a dollar bill. Each followed Greg's directions, folding the bill such that the seal, which has the minting city, is hidden inside the bill. Greg then took a whiff and correctly identified where each was minted: Cleveland! San Francisco! Atlanta! He told us afterwards that he got the effect from the August 2016 issue of the *Linking Ring*.

Mago Ruly had Cathy Schaffner come up and select a card. It was a red card, which was shown to match the back of the deck: all red backs. But, then, the selected card was blue, and next all the cards in the deck were blue. The deck was returned to its box.

A coin, and a small stick (or large toothpick) were mysteriously pushed through the box. The box was handed to the spectator, who noticed it felt strangely heavy. Upon opening the box, it was found that the deck had changed to a solid metal block.

Finally a greeting scrolled across face of his iPad.

Then **Bob Meigs**, who was not competing, demonstrated a numerical trick.

Bob had three spectators (Greg Wauson, Jeff Marcus, Rich Robertson and Alfonso Vasquez) come forward, and each was given three large, laminated sheets with single digit numbers on them. The spectators could shuffle and hold up the cards in whatever order they liked, resulting in three three-digit numbers. Bob wrote his prediction for the total on a piece of paper, sealed in a large envelope.

The numbers were then selected: 812, 456, 397. A spectator totaled them, finding 1665. The envelope was opened, and, yes - it matched the prediction!

Bob explained that this was the original version

that he did at the Fair, and he explained how the numbers work to total the prediction. He then explained and demonstrated another version. The new version yielded 495, 286, 173, totaling 954, which indeed matched Bob's prediction in the envelope. Cool!

Finally, we were privileged to witness a routine by our French visitor, **Josselin ("Joe") Nespoux**. He did several very polished and impressively visual effects with cards. One was done with recorded music background, which added to the visually stunning color and other changes of the cards. One of the effects was *Traveler* by David Stone (on his *Real Secrets of Magic DVD*), which Josselin performed perfectly.

The club members were all very happy to have Josselin joining us.

Afterwards, the meeting concluded, and many stuck around for dessert and camaraderie.

.... Ken Intriligator, Secretary

RING 76 MEMBER PERFORMS AT NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE AND CANDY SHOPPE



Malcolm Campbell was one of the nine acts in the 33rd traditional Vaudeville show produced by the North Park Vaudeville & Candy Shoppe. The intimate 35-seat house was full and both audience and performers had a great time. Malcolm did his version of *Multiplying Bottles*.



“NEW TO ME” COMPETITION



Emcee Richard Ustick



Cary Shaffner



Charlie Gott





Jeff Marcus



Jeff Pearson



Alfonso Vasquez





Terry Godfrey



Kenny Shelton



Greg Wauson



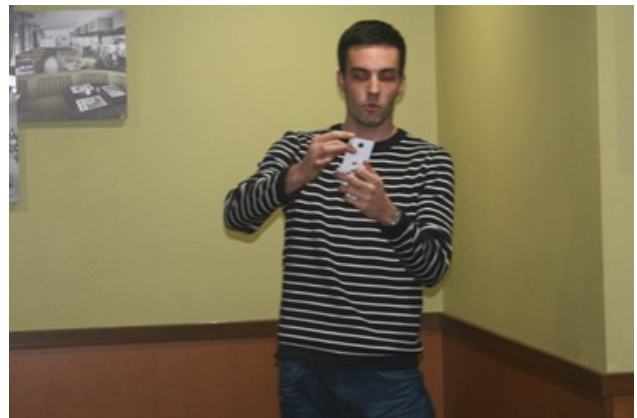
Mago Ruly



Bob Meigs

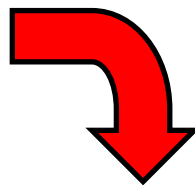


Joe Nespoux





AND THE WINNER IS ..





Ken Intriligator



Congratulations Ken!



SCOTT ALEXANDER LECTURE



On Saturday, February 11th, Ring 76 will present its next free lecture to members in good standing.

The Ring is happy to present the talented **Scott Alexander**, "Like a Magician, but funny."

Scott's magic reached millions on NBC's season six of "America's Got Talent" where he advanced all the way with his large stage illusions. With articles in People Magazine and Nations Business, the Oprah Show took notice and Scott was invited by Oprah Winfrey to make a guest appearance on her show.

Scott had the honor of headlining on the Las Vegas Strip at Caesars Palace for over seven years and four thousand performances of large grand illusions fused with stand-up comedy magic. Scott's magic has been featured on Penn and Teller's "Fool Us" on the CW, The Si-FY Channel, Discovery Channel and NBC.



Scott Alexander

The lecture will be at our normal Denny's location, 4280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd San Diego, CA 92117 at 2:30 pm Saturday afternoon. It is free to members in good standing. You are free to bring a guest, but all non-members will be charged \$20.

If you are going to get lunch before the lecture — which we encourage — please arrive early enough to be served and finish your meal downstairs. The lecture room will not be set up with tables and, as a courtesy to our lecturer, no food will be allowed in the room.

Be sure to tell your server that you are an IBM member so that we get credit toward our room charge. Be sure "IBM" is written on your bill.

See you there.



CLOSE-UP COMPETITION AT HAND

It's time for our annual Close-Up Competition which will be held at our regular meeting at the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club on Monday, February 13.

Members in good standing are encouraged to show their skill and compete to be Ring 76 Closeup Performer of the Year. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm.



Because of the nature of the competition, it will be limited to eight performers. Four tables will be set up and you will be expected to do your routine at each table. You will have eight minutes to show your skills then 10 minutes to reset before going in front of the next table.



This year the Board of Directors has decided to go back to the traditional open judging. There will **not** be professional judges with mathematical weighing of scores between vote of the membership and those of the judges. Each member, in good standing, will have one vote to cast for the one performer they thought was the most professional, technically skilled, and overall entertaining performer of the night.

The votes will be tallied and the First, Second, and Third place winners will be announced at the Installation Banquet in July. The winners will be presented with Ring 76 medals and a cash award.

As this is a competition the rules will be strictly enforced. Most important is the time limit. You will have eight minutes to present your routine. You may take less time with **NO PENALTY** but may not go overtime. There will be an official timer and a one minute warning will sound to aid the contestants in wrapping up before their time expires. Please go to Ring76.com to review the complete set of rules.



All close-up routines are welcome but we must remind all contestants that this is a Family Organization, so please temper your patter accordingly. The VP of Entertainment reserves the right to stop any performance which he or any member of the Board deems inappropriate.

If you are interested in competing this year, or if you have any questions, please contact the VP of Entertainment, Richard Ustick at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com. You **must register by February 10th**. There will be no walk-in registration. We are firmly committed to eight contestants, so register early.



March Meeting to Feature Teach-In Competition



Our March meeting will be on the 13th of the month and will be featuring the ever popular “Teach-in.”

Each entrant will demonstrate, then teach, a trick or routine they find particularly enjoyable. It is a chance to show your Ring something new and entertaining and a chance for Ring members to learn from a hands-on experience.

Due to time constraints, the number of contestants will be limited to eight with fifteen minutes each to teach you something you will want to learn.

Members will be seated at multiple tables to minimize the class size and facilitate a better learning environment. Teachers will move from table to table..

We ask that all the instructors bring printed instructions for their effect or routine which members can take with them. (40 copies) If props are necessary, for the audience to follow and practice the routine, either bring enough for one table (10) and plan to re-use them at each table or notify the VP of Entertainment to let the membership know that they need to bring a deck of cards, coins, etc.

If you have any questions, or would like to teach this year, please contact Richard Ustick at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com.



Focus On **THE LINKING RING**

Have you ever wondered if an advertised effect, book or CD is worth the money? Many times they are not, and how would you know? If you make it a habit to look at the *Hocus in Focus* column in every issue of the LR, you could save yourself a lot of grief.

Hocus in Focus regularly presents unbiased reviews of magic-related books and CDs, and in-depth critiques of effects on the market. Chances are good that you will find a good evaluation of something you are about to buy.

Avoiding purchasing a dud of an advertised effect which doesn't work could well fund purchase of a *Linking Ring* option with your IBM membership renewal.

,,, editor



NOTES AND REMINDERS



Remember, we are looking for product reviews. It doesn't matter if you liked what you paid for or not, we want your opinion for the benefit of the rest of the members. If you're not a writer, we can arrange a short sit-down to gather the facts and write the review.

Have magic to sell, stage equipment to rent? Looking for something to buy or rent? Need a ride or have room for a passenger to an out of town event such as the Magic Castle?

Have a special skill another member might use? Need a temporary assistant?

Advertise it at no cost to Ring 76 members in MagiCurrents

LIBRARY REMINDER

Ring 76 has a large library of books DVD's, even VHS tapes covering every phase of magic. All of the Materials are available for members to check out and use at home.

Kenny Shelton, our Librarian, regularly brings a sampling to our meetings and those are available for immediate check out. You may not know that the "Library" link on our website leads you to a complete list. If you find something there that you would like to use, contact Kenny at magicjugglerks@gmail.com. Tell him what you want and he will bring it to the next meeting.

The intended publication date of each issue of MagiCurrents is the Friday 9 days before the monthly meeting. Sub-



missions from officers, reporters and other members are due the Wednesday before the publication date. If you want *your* newsletter on time, please be prompt!!

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of MagiCurrents!

..... editor