



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

MARCH 2017

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President's Message

By Joe (Mystic) McGrievy

Greetings fellow magicians and magic enthusiasts. We were treated to one of the best close-up competitions I have seen in a long time at our last meeting. Kudos to all of you who competed. You showed us some polished and entertaining magic.

Like the rest of you, I will have to wait until July, to see who rose to the top three places by the popular vote. I know who I voted for but the decision was tough.

GOOD NEWS: It looks as if the Boat Club will be our regular meeting spot—at least for now. Hopefully they will have the road fixed by our next meeting.

The next theme meeting is Kids' Magic. If you will each ask one or two neighbor or relative children to come, it will make for a better show. This is one theme where we need a special audience—an audience of children.

We are working on ways to do that but it could involve moving the meeting to a school or other venue. I would prefer if we could bring an audience to the Boat Club. Just a little effort from our members could take care of it. Make sure to read the whole newsletter as there are some changes to our meetings coming up.

..... Joe



Ring 76 2017 Calendar

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 March 13, 2017

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

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LONG-TIME MEMBER JOEL MOSKOWITZ PASSES



Funeral services for Dr. Joel Moskowitz were held on Tue. Feb 28th at 12:00 noon at the Miramar National Cemetery.

Dr. Moskowitz had a stellar career in Psychiatric Medicine, specializing in Pediatrics. He served in the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Reserve.

Joel was a long-time member of Ring 76. As an avid reader, he regularly contributed in-depth book reviews as well as opinion columns to MagiCurrents.

**WE JOIN THE MAGIC COMMUNITY, HIS FAMILY
AND THE PUBLIC HE ENTERTAINED
IN MOURNING THE LOSS OF**



MAGICIAN DARYL EASTON



Minutes of the February 13, 2017 Monthly Meeting and Close-Up Contest

The meeting was convened at 7:00 pm by President Joe “Mystic” McGrievy at our “new” location, the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club. Thirty-four members and three guests were present.

BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion of Scott Alexander’s lecture, which was two days earlier at Denny’s. The lecture was excellent, but Denny’s had (yet-again) double-booked the room, forcing the lecture to be held on the outdoor patio.

Jeff Marcus announced that long-time ring member Dr. Joel Moskowitz passed away. His funeral will be held on Tuesday February 28, at noon, at the Miramar National Cemetery (at the intersection of I-805 and Nobel Drive).

PROGRAM

Vice President of Entertainment, **Richard Ustick** started the performances off by explaining the format of this month’s meeting: the annual **Close-Up Competition**. Ring members sat at three large tables. The six performers were divided into two groups of three. In the first eight-minute session, the first group of three each performed at one of the three tables. In the second eight-minute session, the second group of three performed at the three tables. The groups then continued to alternate, performing at each table.

The performers were: Gary Dismukes, Ken Intriligator, Raul River Melo (aka Mago Ruly), Josselin Nespoux, Cary Schaffner, and Greg Wauson.

Each ring member was given a sheet of paper with each of the six names, and were asked to vote for their favorite. The results and prizes will be presented at the Installation Banquet in July.

Ken Intriligator did “science demonstrations,” starting with a “quantum tunneling” Rope-Through Neck. A knot on the rope disappeared, and then a large hex nut appeared on a knot that was dropped into his fist. A pen was shaken to look rubbery, and then, one-at-a-time, a pair of dice was produced from the cap. A mini briefcase was brought out, containing Schrodinger’s cat. Inside were two sponge-ball “cat states” and then a large steel ball. A brief sponge ball routine, themed to the Schrodinger’s cat idea, followed. Next came a couple of rubber band linking effects, with the quantum theme. Last was an effect with the pair of dice, with their spots changing several times (an old classic routine, done to the quantum theme).

Mago Ruly started with a classic card game based on locating the four aces in four cuts made by the spectator, followed by discovering the four kings.

Next a chosen card was lost in the deck. Four small piles of cards were given to three spectators. Following instructions, they mixed and counted cards. In the end the selected card appeared on top of one pile and the other three mates appeared on top of the other three.

His final effect was “The King of the cut” in which a seemingly mix deck is shown to be in order.

Cary Schaffner, aka “Cary The Magish” performed his close-up routine to Valentine’s themed music by Kenny G. He put knots on a red silk and one by one took them off.

Then he sat down at the table and baffled us with a Rubik’s Cube mentalist illusion by guessing the color chosen while the cube was hidden under a silk.

He also performed the famous three coins across in mid air (to “Come Fly with Me” by Mark Mason). He finished with a unique hot rod illusion using pens instead of paddles and words instead of colors.

Greg Wauson opened with a routine in which a copper coin and silver coin, which repeatedly were

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

put into his pocket, reappeared back in his hand.

At one point, the silver coin visually jumped from one hand to the other.

Finally, when he removed just one of the coins from his hand and put it into his pocket, the other coin was also gone.

He followed this with a Card Warp type effect in which a folded-in-half playing card mysteriously turned around three times in a dollar bill.

Greg closed with folding and tearing a signed card in his otherwise empty hands. He heated the edges of the pieces with a small blowtorch lighter and instantly restored the card, which he gave back to the person who had selected and signed it.

Gary Dismukes started out with an observation test involving a ball-point pen to make sure that everyone was paying close attention. The audience was asked to keep track of which direction the pen was pointing, but inevitably the pen was not pointing where it seemed it should be, and switched direction several times.

After the pen warmup, Gary proceeded with a Triumph-style routine where two cards were selected. The deck was then shuffled face-up into face-down cards, and the cards rearranged themselves by suits to reveal the first selection. After another topsy-turvy shuffle, the second was revealed. He ended with a kicker of the first selection changing into the second one.

Josselin Nespoux started by approaching the table as a waiter, holding a notepad. He made a pen appear from nowhere but at the same time the notepad changed into a deck of cards. Using this deck of playing cards, Josselin performed a rising card routine.

Then, he asked a spectator to choose and sign any card. After loosing the card in the deck, he asked another spectator to hold the pack in his hands. Josselin made the card jump to the top of the deck, without touching anything. More than that, he made the deck change into a piece of

plastic between the spectator's hands! After that, Josselin performed ACE, an interactive routine during which four jokers change into four aces.

Finally, the French magician asked someone for a dollar bill and performed a clean bill change to get a €50 bill, and then went back to the dollar bill and kept it as a tip ... just joking !"

AFTER GLO

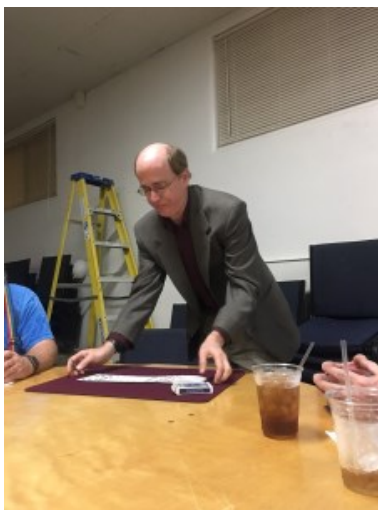
Afterwards, the meeting concluded, and many went to a Buddy's Diner in Pacific Beach for dinner, dessert, and camaraderie.



Magic Sharing at After Glo



CLOSE-UP COMPETITION



Gary Dismukes





Ken Intriligator



Greg Wauson

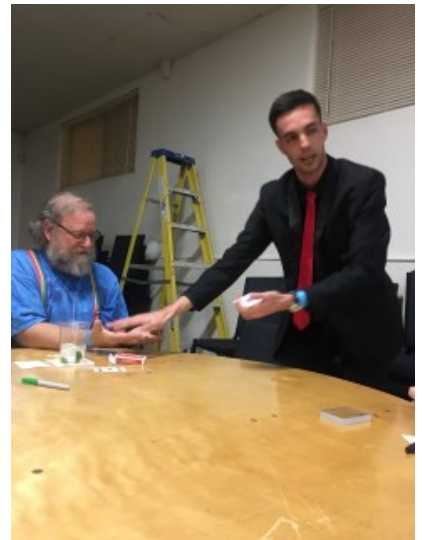


Cary Schaffner





Joe Nespoux



Mago Rule



AND THE WINNER

.... Will Be Announced at the Installation Banquet in July

along with the winners of the Stage Magic and Performer
of the Year awards.

(The Board promises to more accurately report the results
than The Academy Awards did.)





*Next Four Membership Meetings scheduled
to be Held at*

San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club

2606 N Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109

7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month



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.

See Announcements for Meeting Details



Ring 76 Meetings to Feature Opportunity to Learn and Own New Trick

“New to You - and Us, Too” is the theme of a new feature at six of our monthly meetings in the coming year. Someone in our Ring – perhaps a different member each time – will demonstrate a new and interesting piece of commercial magic, after which, we will sell raffle tickets for the item. The workings of the effect will then be revealed and a ticket drawn to determine the lucky winner.

However, even though you will learn the details of the working of the effect, we will choose effects which include a gimmick you won't be able to make at home. So, if you want to perform the effect, you'll have to buy it – or win it in the raffle. But you'll know more about it than you can tell from an online video before you decide to buy it, which will give you a jump on most of the magic community. You will be able to decide for yourself whether it's worth the price.

There is no obligation to participate in the raffle to see the effect performed and to learn how it works.

The effects we demonstrate will retail between \$50 and \$100 dollars, but you can own it for the small price of a raffle ticket – probably \$3 or 2 tickets for \$5. The effects we select normally will have been released within 30 days of the demonstration date, so this will be “cutting edge” stuff.

Greg Wauson will kick-off this event at our March meeting, demonstrating *The Gift*, by Angelo Carbone. If you want a preview, check it out on the Hocus Pocus website, or YouTube.

If you'd like to demonstrate an effect —or suggest one — contact Bob Meigs, or any Board member. The six meetings at which we plan to have these demonstration/raffles are our five themed-competitions and Teach-A-Trick night.

So, come to the meeting, enjoy the magic, reap the benefits of membership and good luck!





OMG ! NOT AGAIN !!

Yes fellow Ring Members, it is time to start thinking about the next election of officers.

I know that most of you have had your fill of the campaign trail, however, once again, Ring 76 must elect a Board of directors. While the election is not until June, the Ring Constitution states that some wheels must begin turning right now.

The first thing required is the formation of a Nominating Committee which will oversee the election, present the candidates to the Ring, and insure a fair process. This is not a time consuming effort as the Board of Directors presents a slate of candidates, and the Committee is only responsible for overseeing the election and adding to the slate any members who wish to run for office.

If you would be willing to serve on the Nominating Committee this year, please contact me or any other Board member.

As stated in the Constitution, any member, in good standing, can run for any office on the Board, with the exception of President. To run for President you must have been a Board member for at least one term previously.

The Board of Directors meets once a month, with the exception of December, and is responsible for making sure the Ring runs smoothly and in accordance with the Constitution and By Laws. Officers include the V.P. of Entertainment, the V.P. of Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, Sargent at Arms, and Member at large, a position that is a Jack of all Trades. The duties and responsibilities of these positions can be found in the Constitution on the Ring Website. You can also talk about the Board and its duties with any Ring Board member before or after the next meeting.

Ring 76 does not run by itself. All of the benefits you get from being a Ring member take a Board of Directors to organize and implement. Serving on the Board is an important and rewarding job which all Ring members should aspire to.

If you are interested in being a Board member, then talk with any current member of the Board. Find out what is involved. We know that your time is valuable, but so is your membership in Ring 76. The Ring is strong because of the vitality of its membership and leadership. Part of that vitality is in service to the Ring, and part of that service includes serving on the Board of Directors.

Richard Ustick
V.P. Entertainment
I.B.M. Ring 76





MARCH IS TEACH-A-TRICK MONTH

The theme for the March Ring meeting will be a *Teach-a-Trick*.

Members of the Ring will teach you exciting magic that you can do on your own and will compete for points toward Entertainer of the Year.

Attendees will be divided up into individual tables and you will be shown an effect and taught how to do it. The teachers will rotate through the tables so that everyone experiences all of them.

The teachers will demonstrate one or more effects then teach you how to do them. They will provide you with instructions, answer questions, and aid you in understanding the effects they are teaching.

By the end of the night your magic repertoire will be greatly expanded.

Even if it is not something you would use in your current act, knowledge is power and you may find this useful in the near future.

If you are interested in being a teacher for this month's meeting, all you have to do is come up with an effect you can teach in fifteen minutes, using anything you want. You will also have to provide 40 copies of written instructions and have the desire to share your vast expanse of magical knowledge.

As a teacher you will have fifteen minutes at each table, with a break between rounds to give you time to reset and evaluate your presentation. You can teach anything you want but keep in mind the time limit and the average skills of your audience.

If you are interested in being a teacher/competitor, for this year's Teach-a-Trick or have any questions, please contact the VP of Entertainment, Richard Ustick, at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com

APRIL'S THEME IS KIDS' MAGIC

FYI - The April Meeting is for the kids !!

The April meeting's theme will be "Kids' Magic" **with live kids!**

To make the venue more realistic for the theme, we will be having an audience of children.

The Board is currently looking for a location for the meeting where we can have an audience of children. After all, that is what Kids' Magic is for, right ?

Look for more information at the next meeting in March, and, of course your newsletter will keep you updated.

However, now is the time to prepare to present your favorite child-appropriate illusions.

See you in April.

Richard Ustick





PRODUCT REVIEW

Ox Bender by Max Gross of Hocus Pocus

We asked Hocus Pocus Magic if they could provide a review of a new product for publication in MagiCurrents on a monthly basis for the benefit of our members. Max Gross responded with the follow review of *Ox Bender*.

We at Hocus Pocus would like to thank the members of Ring 76 for the opportunity to review products for your consideration. Hocus Pocus has been serving the magic community since 1973, so I have seen a lot of magic in my time. Not everything that comes through our doors is a winner. Those of you who know me know that you'll find our reviews to be honest and informative. With that said, let's start with our first item.

Picking an item to review can be difficult but, with *Ox Bender* by Menny Lindenfield on the market, it was an easy pick!

There have been a multitude of bending devices marketed over the years. Hocus Pocus has carried most of them and most have had draw backs in handling and concealment. As far as we are concerned.. *Ox Bender* is the World's First, One-Handed Coin Bender! Quite the title, but Ox Bender doesn't stop there; It can also bend keys or spoons!

Many people are skeptical of the durability and the mechanics behind *Ox Bender*. To the contrary, his is one of the most simplistic benders on the market, and quite durable — like an Ox! When you receive your *Ox Bender* you can almost automatically figure out how it works, it is that simple! *Ox Bender* can be easily concealed, as well as be ditched when needed.

After purchasing *Ox Bender*, you will receive a download link for fifty-three minutes of high definition instructions that will show you methods and techniques to use *Ox Bender* in multiple positions as well as applying it to twisting keys or spoons.

As a bonus, when ordering *Ox Bender* from Hocus Pocus, not only will it ship worldwide for free, but you will also receive a free copy of "Declassified 2 Volume " DVD set which covers other metal bending techniques. The set is a \$40.00 value and is our gift to you.

All in all, I would give *Ox Bender* a 10 out of 10 for performance and convenience! Perfect for close up magicians, as well as mentalists and metal benders, it can be performed standing or sitting and with multiple options for bending. You really can't go wrong!

Below are links to the full description and video.

<http://www.hocus-pocus.com/prod/39951/OX-Bender-Menny-Lindenfield>

For any question always call or email us at Hocus Pocus , 1-800-407-4040

sales@hocus-pocus.com

max@hocus-pocus.com



,,,,,, Max Gross



SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting February 20, 2017



The meeting was called to order by President Joe "Mystic" McGrievy at 7:25 pm. (Dinner started at 7:00pm.) The board members present were: the First V.P. (Entertainment), Richard Ustick; Second V.P. (Membership), James Thayer; Secretary Ken Intriligator; Treasurer Bob Meigs; Sergeant-at-Arms Sherry Luft; Member-at-large and Newsletter Editor Malcolm Campbell. Member-at-large (Past President and current librarian), Kenny Shelton, was absent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Marcus sent an email reporting that long-time Ring member Dr. Joel Moskowitz passed away. His funeral will be held on Tuesday February 28, at noon, at the Miramar National Cemetery (at the intersection of I-805 and Nobel Drive).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January Board meeting was approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's report - Treasurer **Bob Meigs** presented his report. There was a small change (dues from one member, and the expense from Scott Alexander's lecture fee). The report was approved by the board.

Library report - Librarian **Kenny Shelton** was absent so there was no library report.

Lecture - The Scott Alexander lecture (February 11) was successful, despite Denny's having again double booked the room.

Membership report - V.P. of Membership

James Thayer noted that Ring 76 now has 65 members in good standing, including 11 Life Members.

February ring meeting - The closeup competition was discussed and the board all felt that it went very well. There was positive reaction to the format with performers rotating through the tables in alternating groups to allow for rest and reset between performances.

OLD BUSINESS

Ring incorporation - Malcolm Campbell is continuing to look into getting the ring incorporated as a 501c6.

NEW BUSINESS

March 11 ring meeting - The meeting will take place at the Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club. The theme will be Teach-a-Trick. There will be four tables and the instructors will alternate, much as in the close-up contest.

April Meeting - Kids' Magic theme. The board is exploring the possibility of having the meeting somewhere where kids would be likely to attend. Possibilities discussed included some schools and Boys / Girl's club. Please contact a board member with any suggestions.

Installation banquet - Tentatively set for July 9th.

New idea for raffle combined with education - Bob Meigs suggested having a raffle of a new trick purchased by the Ring. The trick would be demonstrated, revealed and raffled off. It was agreed to try it at the March meeting.

NEWSLETTER

Malcolm encourages member contributions.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

..... Ken Intriligator, Secretary

From the Editor:

Special thanks for those who came to our aid and supplied photos of the Close-Up Contest, and to the performers who assisted in filling in details of their performances.

Also thanks to Bob Meigs for arranging for Hocus Pocus to provide product reviews. The first of these appears in this issue

CHECK THIS OUT !

Your name and face could be here in the next issue of MagiCurrents.

Your opportunities include:

Behind the Scenes - In-depth member biographies relating your life experiences in and outside of magic.

Product Review - Your evaluation of a new product.

Book Review - Your review of a magic publication.

Lecture Review - Your review of a lecture which members may not have attended.

Lessons in Performance - Relate an experience you've had performing.

Magic to Share - Dig out your gems of effects or routines which haven't been seen in decades. Share them with the members.

Your Engagements - Free announcement of your engagement schedule.

Surplus props - Free advertising of your surplus magic for sale.

Contact the Editor for more information.

**Focus On
THE LINKING RING**

Have you ever wondered where some of our members come up with the fine effects they use in our competitions?

Looking for a new effect or two to add to your repertoire? Don't forget about the regular features in the Linking Ring (TLR) which have recently expanded.

The Parade section always has up to a dozen tricks, many of them never published before. The subject matter covers almost all areas of magic.

In addition, Michael Breggar's "Auto-Magic" contains several clever effects; Chris Beason's "Situationally Yours" presents magic with every-day items and situations; Andrew Woo deals out his own take on magic in "Simple Diversions", Mike Power's "The Card Corner" includes a variety of card effects with the difficulty running from a notch above "self-working" to card shark.

Including Joe Bruno's Parade, there are 18 effects in the February issue for you to choose from.

Should you choose an effect from a specific issue and have some difficulty interpreting it, please remember that your editor has prepared a large part of the material for publication and, in doing so, has worked through every single one.

Don't be afraid to try any effect found in the TLR. If you get stuck, just contact me for advice.

..... Editor
editor@ring76.com



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. Submissions 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