



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

APRIL 2018

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President's Message

By Joe (Mystic) McGrievy



It is good to be a magician. I like to have something different when I am in a crowd. I am going to a talent showcase on Thursday and there are over 100 people showcasing their talents. I am the only magician.

There will be a room full of talent agents and party planners. Guess who will get any magic shows available. 99% will be doing music of some sort. A few other talents but only I will present magic. I hope I can impress them in my 10-minute allotted time.

For all of us it is nice to have a magic trick or two wherever we are and whomever we are in front of. I know I used to get a lot of dates using a pocket trick or two.

Next meeting, I am looking forward to Bob Meigs giving a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) lecture. These all can be used in conjunction with magic. I plan to start a show called STEM&M. The second M meaning Magic. It is a hot topic at schools and libraries right now. Also come for our Teach-A Trick-night. You may learn one of those pocket tricks that can impress your friends.

Joe Mystic

Ring 76 2017-18 Calendar

- Apr 9 Teach-a-Trick
 - Apr 23 Board Meeting**/Nominees sent to Election Committee
 - May 14 Stage Competition
 - May 28 Board Meeting**
 - Jun 11 No Theme*/Elections
 - Jun 25 Board Meeting**
 - Jul 8 Installation Banquet
- * Opportunity for Members to Perform
** Any Member may attend.

Our regular monthly meetings are at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month. The next meeting is on Monday, March 12 at 7:00 at the Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club

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

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

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Minutes of the March 12, 2018, Ring 76 Membership Meeting

The meeting was held at the San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club.

President **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy** called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

There were a few visitors who introduced themselves: **Winton and his son, Ian Gibbons**, who had attended a Ring meeting some years ago; **Dave**, who is interested in magic and was attending a Ring meeting for the first time; and **Gary Salisbury** who is a former, longtime member of the Ring.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

V.P. of Entertainment, **Richard Ustick**, forwarded an announcement from **Dr. Jeff Pearson** (who was unable to attend this month’s meeting) that **Doc Eason** will have a workshop in Carlsbad on April 15. Contact Jeff for more information.

Richard also announced some upcoming Ring events: April is Teach-a-Trick, May is the annual Stand-Up competition, and elections for next year’s Board are coming up (please consider contributing to the Ring by joining the Board).

Joe announced that Ring member **Craig Blackwood’s** Magic Monday at the Lot Restaurant in La Jolla, had its second monthly show in February. Drawing on Ring 76 members and other noted magicians, the shows have been excellent. The February show featured **Craig Blackwood**, **John Hankins** (from the North County Magic Club), **Joe Mystic**, and **Cary “The Magish” Schaffner**. Future shows will be on the third Monday of the month to prevent conflicts with the Ring’s Board meeting.

The March 19 show will include performances by past president of Ring 76, **Derek Ostovani**, **John Hankins**, and **Sylvester the Jester**. Come to the Lot on March 19 and enjoy the family friendly show!

MINI-LECTURE

Malcolm Campbell presented a lecture on how he develops his always-creative and original performances. As an example, he discussed his performance from 2017 when the theme was Food-Related Magic. His effect involved finding a selected card, which was put back into the deck by the spectator, then located using a rubbery, stretchy, fake tongue.

He discussed his problem-solving approach to developing a relatively simple trick into a reasonably acceptable effect. He demonstrated the application of engineering approaches to thinking beyond the obvious, including quickly considering many possibilities; then creating pathways to evaluate and apply them to produce the desired outcome.

In this case, he solved the problem of not being able to display a forcing deck by using a deck that was half a forcing deck and a normal deck that could be displayed. Malcolm ensured that the spectator chose from the forcing half. Then, after taking a couple of “magician-in-trouble” incorrect choices from the normal half as “foolers” to divert the magicians from suspecting a forcing deck, he used the fake tongue to get any card from the forcing half. Clever!

PERFORMANCES

Richard Ustick did a great job (as usual!) as the Master of Ceremonies, with many jokes.

Robert Vinson demonstrated a beautifully hand-made limited edition (#8 of 12) block and tube that he recently acquired.

The block passed through the tube, and then it was obstructed by some tiny swords inserted through the tube. Through an opening in the tube, the block was seen to stop above the swords, and then slowly and mysteriously make its way down, below the swords, and fall to the bottom. Very cool!

Kenny Shelton started his performance by announcing that he is performing in Balboa Park by

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

the koi pond on weekends, and he encouraged members to stop by. He expertly performed some interesting card effects with selections made by assistants guest **Ian Gibbons** and **Tom Owen-Towle**.

He afterwards told us that the effects are by Woody Aragon. One was called “Cheerleader” and another “Maverick”. Wow!

Jeff Marcus demonstrated a fun and neat device that is available from *magic switchbox.com*.

There are red, green, yellow, and blue switches, which turn on corresponding red, green, yellow and blue lights. The fun is that the bulbs and switch covers can be permuted any which way chosen by the audience, and the switch will still light up the light of the matching color. When multiple switch covers are in the same hand, that switch even lights up all of the corresponding lights. Neat!

Ken Intriligator did a routine with some nuts and bolts. The first half were various coin and pen effects, using a large hex nut instead of the coin (nut from pence, nut through the table, striking vanish and will-o-the-wisp with a pen and nut). Then the nut became three nuts (as in Ken Brooke’s or John Scarne’s Something from Nothing). Then came three in the hand, one in the pocket with a bolt and nutted bolt (called All Screwed Up, by Christopher Frings in an old Genii magazine, and explained by Doc Eason in one of his DVDs). The theme started as pseudo-scientific but then became a repeated knock-knock joke. For the ending, the bolt and nuts vanished and was replaced by an appearing orange (done as in R.P. Wilson’s Threesome ending).

Malcolm Campbell performed an effect with **Tom Owen-Towle**, **Richard Ustick** and **Sheriy Luft** assisting. The cards were quickly shown to Malcolm and he claimed to memorize their order by picturing them in cubbyholes. Then Richard and Tom took halves of the deck and Malcolm went through the suits, correctly stating who had which card in their hand.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40, and many of us went to Buddy’s Diner in Pacific Beach for dinner, dessert, and camaraderie.

..... Ken Intriligator, Secretary



FOCUS ON THE LINKING RING

The February issue of the Linking Ring chronicles the week-long celebration of the life of Eugene Burger held at the Magic Castle.

It would be difficult to find a magician who has never heard of Eugene Burger. Eugene, who departed our world just six months ago was the epitome of any adjective you could put in front of the word “magician”. He was the inventor, creator and developer of some of the best magic of our lifetimes, yet he never lost touch with his roots in magic and the life-long friends who cherished the time they were able to spend with him.

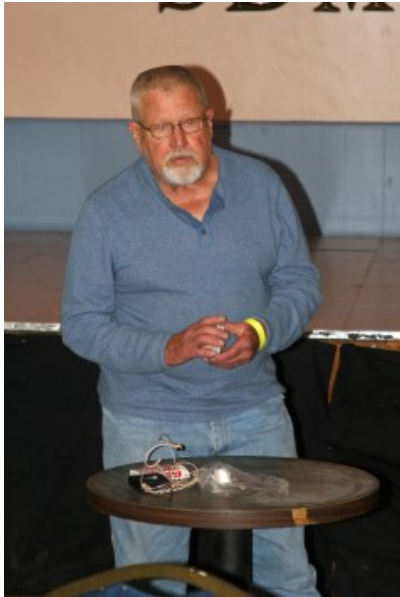
I never met him personally, but a fellow magician who had many occasions to work with him urged me to have Eugene evaluate several effects I was developing, so I sent them to him. His comments were precise and thorough, telling me why his reaction to one was negative. His response to the other was simply, “I like it.” That was good enough for me and I will someday put it on the market, but would rather not reveal it just yet!

You will find the details of the Castle celebration very fitting this great man.

..... editor

CREATION OF NEW EFFECTS

Malcolm Campbell



Malcolm Campbell





NO THEME COMPETITION



Richard Ustick Introduces Performers



Robert Vinson



Kenny Sheldon w/Tom Owen-Towle and Ian Gibbons





Malcolm Campbell w/ Richard Ustick, Tom Owen-Towle and Sherry Luft



The Conestents



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL IS TEACH-A-TRICK MONTH and MORE!

April is the fourth month of the Gregorian calendar and the word “April” comes from Middle English, from Anglo-French & Latin; Anglo-French *Avrill*, from Latin *Aprilis* and its first known use is well before the 12th century. The traditional etymology is from the verb *aperire*, “to open”, in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to “open.”

There, you just learned something, and that is important because in Ring 76, April is the **month of learning**. It is a time to be “open” to new tricks, ideas, and methods of presentation. That is why April is “**Teach-A-Trick**” month.

Members of your Ring will be teaching you either a new trick that you may not be familiar with, or a new method of doing an old trick, or even how to take that stale and worn out illusion and showing it in a new light. No matter what they are presenting, you will be a better magician at the end of the evening than you were when you arrived.

April will also be the meeting where **Bob Meigs** presents his **STEM lecture**. This will be of particular interest to any magician who does school shows and is looking for a new way to market themselves in an era of ever-decreasing budgets for outside entertainment. **STEM** stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math** and is the current “hot topic” in the education system. If you can incorporate these ideas into your show, you can increase your chances of being booked.

The meeting will be **April 9th** at the usual location. Please keep a lookout in your email inbox for additional information. As instructors contact me, they may require you to bring specific tools or props to aid in their education session. I will keep you up to date through email blasts

..... Richard Ustick, V.P. of Entertainment

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of Ring 76 Officers for the 2018 - 2019 fiscal year will be held at the **June General Meeting**. The new Board will be installed at the **July Banquet**. The schedule stipulated by the Constitution is as follows:

March Board meeting - Nominating Committee finalized. If you wish to assume an opening on the Nominating Committee, please contact a Board Member.

April Board meeting - Recommendations of the Board for the slate of officers sent to the Nominating Committee.

May General Meeting - Nominations from the membership open. Contact a Board member.

June General Meeting - Slate presented to the membership for vote. Nominations open prior to vote.

July Banquet - New Board sworn in.

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See below for more details.



ELECTION of OFFICERS

As Directed by the Ring Constitution and By-Laws, we are now in the Official Election Season at Ring 76.

Each year the Ring elects its Board of Directors whose job it is to see that the Ring runs efficiently and to the benefit of its members, which are you. The various positions on the Board take on specific tasks which are important but not overtaxing. Everything you get out of your membership in Ring 76 comes from the energy of the Board members.

Any member in good standing can run for a seat on the Board of Directors. It is an opportunity for each member to take their turn at the helm of Ring 76. To be an effective advocate, all that is needed is for you to be willing to share your ideas, your experience and your fresh approach to problems. Your only commitment is to attend the Board Meetings, held the fourth Monday of the month, and a little of your time in between over the next year. Talk to a Board Member before or after the next meeting to learn more.

The positions open to anyone are President (the only position that to be eligible for you must have served on the Board previously in any capacity), V.P. of Entertainment, V.P. of Membership, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Member-at-Large - a Jack-of-All- Trades position that has no set responsibility but is involved in Board planning and actions.

Ring 76 works through its members. If you want to make the Ring more than it is now, this is your opportunity to be an engine of change. This is the time to take your seat in the cockpit and help guide the Ring through the coming year. Experience in leadership is not required. This is a Board for the members made up of members and it needs you.

Contact any Board Member for more information. Find out how you can be a bigger part of Ring 76.

Richard Ustick
V.P. Entertainment
IBM Ring 76



TEACH-A-TRICK NIGHT

Attention Teachers of Magic!

April will be our annual “**Teach-a-Trick**” meeting.

In this annual event, volunteer teachers each select an effect or complete routine to teach to members of the Ring. The members are broken up into several tables and each instructor teaches his trick to each table on a rotation schedule.



If you would like to be an instructor, if you have a trick you want to teach or even a different approach to a well know trick or routine, then we are interested in having you. Please contact me at Ring76ibm @yahoo.com. There are a limited number of instructors so the sooner you inform me the sooner I can get you on the list.

The requirements are simple. Time is limited for each presentation so it helps if instructors have printed notes to distribute to the students so that they don't have to be distracted by taking notes and they will have the information needed to practice at home . If simple props (cards, coins, thumb tips etc) are needed, either bring enough sets for 8 people to use and return to you for use at the next table or contact me if you want the members to bring their own. If you want to bring enough props so that each member can take a set home, plan on 30 or more.

There is no restriction on what you can teach, though we do maintain a “family friendly” environment. Everything from impromptu magic to parlor and stage is welcome. Just let me know if you need any special considerations. **Richard Ustick, V.P. Entertainment.**

*WHAT THE **** IS S.T.E.M.?*

Have you ever done a S.T.E.M show? Or think you might? Hear about **S.T.E.M. & M.** (the last “**M.**” stands for magic) from someone who sees **education** as an emerging field of magic.



Our upcoming “*Teach-A-Trick*” night includes a lecture by member **Bob Meigs**, who performs regularly at the *Fleet Science Center*, the *San Diego County Fair*, and *San Diego County Libraries*.

This is a little different from many lectures, as Bob has nothing to sell. You'll get a complete set of lecture notes, learn S.T.E.M. routines that can be done with household items, and have plenty of time for questions.

Just come to the April meeting!

.....Bob Meigs



SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD

MINUTES OF RING 76 BOARD MEETING March 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President **Joe "Mystic" McGrievy** at 7:25 pm

The other board members present were: First V.P. (Entertainment) **Richard Ustick**, Sergeant-at-Arms **John Hunter**, Secretary **Ken Intriligator**, Treasurer **Bob Meigs**, Second V.P. (Membership) **James Thayer**, Member-at-Large and Newsletter Editor **Malcolm Campbell**, and Member-at-Large **Robert Vinson**. Librarian **Kenny Shelton** was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February Board meeting were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's report - Treasurer **Bob Meigs** presented his report to the board. The only change was the fee for the meeting location. The Treasurer's report was approved by the board.

Library report - None

Membership report - **James Thayer** reported that we have 63 members with one audition pending.

OLD BUSINESS

March Meeting report - It was agreed that the March meeting with the mini-lecture and the No Theme contest went very well.

Election Committee - Joe reported that the Election Committee will consist of Jeff Marcus, Greg Wauson and Rich Robertson.

NEW BUSINESS

Incorporation Update - **Malcolm** reported that we have 501c6 Non Profit status approved by the IRS. The form to apply for similar status from the State has been submitted.

This will help with tax expenses and insurance issues. Cudoos to Malcolm for sticking with it and following it though to completion!

Election Discussion - The board discussed which members would be willing to serve again next year, and for which positions. The board strongly encourages the general membership to considering serving on the board, and hope that the nominating committee will beat the bushes to try to get others to serve.

April Meeting - Teach-a-trick theme, with rotating members. Bob Meigs will also present his S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) - education magic lecture, which will also include teach-a-trick.

May Meeting - Stand up competition. We hope that many members will perform. However, the board decided that the show will go on even if only one performer steps up to the plate.

July Banquet - The date is tentatively planned for Sunday, July 15.

NEWSLETTER

As usual, member contributions are encouraged.

The board meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

..... Ken Intriligator, Secretary



STAND-UP COMPETITION

Just a reminder that May is our Annual Ring 76 Stand-up competition.

Any member in good standing is invited to participate with cash prizes and medals going to the First, Second, and Third place winners.

Stand-up does NOT mean large stage illusions. It just refers to magic that is not traditionally thought of as “Close-up.” You do not have to get a second mortgage on your house and buy the latest in Vegas-style stagecraft. We are interested in seeing routines and shows that are geared for a larger audience than tableside. We want to see what you can do with the most innovative ideas to a fresh approach to a well known classic.

The complete rules can be found on our website here: <http://www.ring76.com/html/contest.html> and if you have any questions feel free to contact the V.P. of Entertainment at Ring76ibm@yahoo.com.

There can be only a limited number of contestants so if you are interested ,please contact Richard as soon as possible. You MUST reserve a spot in the program no later than the day before the meeting.

The date of the contest is May 14th , Monday, at the usual place.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Richard Ustick, V.P. of Entertainment.

ARLENE MOSKOWITZ PASSES

Long-time member of Ring 76, Arlene Moskowitz died on March 29, just as we were going to press, following her husband Joel who died last year.

The following is from their daughter:

“We are very sorry to let you know that mom passed away this morning. She sincerely appreciated having all of you in her life.

The funeral will be on Monday, April 9th at 1:00 PM at the Miramar National Cemetery located at 5795 Nobel Dr., San Diego, CA 92122.

We will get more information out to you early next week.”



NOTES AND REMINDERS

MagiCurrents offers paid advertising for magic-related items from non-members. The rate is \$60.00 per page per issue.

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 or service 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!!