



# MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

MAY 2021

VOL. XXXVI #5

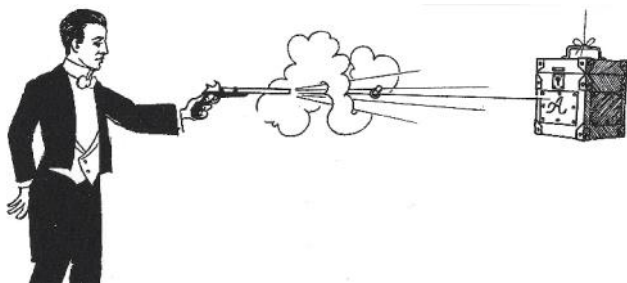
## President's Message

Just like the season of Spring (and lately the CDC) has moved our lives outside, Ring 76 is moving to meet the new seasons and realities of life that we are dealing with today. Big changes are in the works and to paraphrase our great president, Calvin Coolidge, a return to normalcy.

It looks as if the state ban on personal gatherings may be lifted in June, either because of the science or the political storms Sacramento is now facing, and with that in mind, the Board is looking to hold an actual Installation banquet in July. We strongly recommend that all members get vaccinated so that they can attend this event. The details will be coming later so watch your emails and the newsletter.

Other great changes will be a continuation of the successful auction we had at the last ZOOM meeting, some more exciting lectures that our V.P. of Entertainment has arranged, and the opening of the Ring store where you can get great, gently used, magic and bottom of the hat prices. Keep an eye out for further details on that project as well.

Spring has come and summer is around the corner and with it fresh air, sunshine, and intelligently planned



## Ring 76 2021 Calendar

May 10 - Impromptu Magic\*

Jun 14 - Lecture—TBD\*

Jul ? - Installation Banquet

\*Opportunity for Members to Perform

***Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be having physical meetings until further notice. Where possible, we will have virtual meetings on-line. Read this Newsletter and watch your e-mail for***

gatherings so that our magic community can share all that they learned over this last year. I hope to see you all soon.

— Richard Ustick

## Coming Up!

**May:** The theme for the May meeting is impromptu magic or magic with everyday objects. This will be the final performance night of the year, which means members will be able to entertain and earn votes. The deserving individual with the most votes will win the coveted performer of the month award, along with a \$20 Amazon eGift card. The votes will also count toward the performer of the year award, which will be revealed at the installation banquet in July.

By the way, it's always fun to throw in some surprises, so I'll tell you now a very special guest will

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS  
HONEST SID GERHART RING 76  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER - JAMES THAYER, EDITOR@RING76.COM



join our Zoom meeting in May and spend a few minutes with us. I had the pleasure of spending some time with him at the 2019 IBM convention in



Arizona and called him a few weeks ago to ask if he could visit with us and he graciously agreed. His name is, uh, nope – I think it'll be more fun to surprise you on

May 10<sup>th</sup>. But I will tell you my daughter heard his son, a professional comedian, on a Southwest Airlines in-flight audio program three days ago, during which he mentioned his dad is a magician.

**June:** The June meeting was going to be the last performance night of the year, but that was moved up to May since there were not enough contestants for the standup contest scheduled for that month. Being nimble and always looking to provide value for our members, the board has decided instead for a lecture to highlight our June meeting, which again will be over Zoom. As of this writing, we are in discussions with possible lecturers and will communicate updates with you as decisions are made. The meeting in June will also be our election night.

**July:** The July meeting has traditionally been a highlight of our year, since it's been a time to meet, eat, thank the outgoing officers, install the new officers and celebrate our outstanding members and contest winners. In general, this is a time to celebrate our club together. Last year, due to the COVID lockdown, we were unfortunately required to hold our July meeting via Zoom. The board is cautiously optimistic this year, now that more types of events and get togethers are being allowed in the state. Unless COVID rears its ugly head and comes roaring back between now and then, we will meet in person! Bob and Mary Meigs have graciously offered their new home as the venue and, along with top notch food and entertainment, this will be an event you will not want to miss.

— Greg Wauson

## April Meeting

12Apr21

In Cyberspace

Secretary **Matthew King**. Meetings held every 2nd Monday, currently via Zoom.

This was our thirteenth ring meeting held on Zoom. President **Richard Ustick** called the meeting to order at **7:06 p.m.** There were **22 members** online. He announced dues are coming up and can now be sent to [Payments@Ring76.com](mailto:Payments@Ring76.com). If interested in joining the board, please email president **Ustick**. We are open to suggestions to for a new meeting place. **Robert Vinson** mentioned being on the board brings a sense of pride, and it is a great experience.

**Matthew King** discussed the auction rules for the meeting, and he introduced the first auction item, a Milk Vanishing Pitcher by Viking Mfg. Co. The highest bidder was member **Mark Booth**.

**Greg Wauson** introduced member **Gary Dismukes** who gave a book review on “Artful Deceptions – The Impromptu Card Magic of **Alan Kronzek**. It is 100 pages and some of the effects use sleights while others are self-working. The focus is on spectator interaction and a theatrical experience. **Gary** mentioned there is a routine based on Gemini Twins, **Larry Jennings’** “The Visitor”, and a **Dai Vernon** effect he really enjoyed.

**Greg Wauson** congratulated **Mark Booth** for winning the monthly newsletter challenge. **Greg** announced we have 8 presenters for our Teach-a-Trick meeting.

**Gary Dismukes** performed an effect with 4 different colored dice. He had **Greg Wauson** select which number to place face-up on each of them. Whatever numbers were selected, **Gary** placed that number of cards under each die. For the reveal, **Gary** showed the cards and the numbers selected ended up revealing a 4 of a kind. He indicated he learned it from **Nick Brown**, and that **Nick Trost** had a



*Gary Dismukes*

version based on **Jerry Sadowitz**. He explained the method to members.

Next was **Mike Stilwell**. He showed a variation of an ending to “Crazy Man’s Handcuffs”, which created the illusion of two intertwined rubber bands, where one was then made to visibly vanish, and reappear on his wrist.



*Mike Stilwell*

**Matthew King** introduced the next auction item, which was “Exact Change” by **Gregory Wilson**. The winning bid was member **Gary Dismukes**.

**Joe “Mystic” McGrievy** was next to Teach-a-Trick. He remembered seeing member **Bob Meigs** perform something similar. He shared a video performance of an effect with a napkin that magically animates, interacts with you, and moves

around like it’s trying to get away from you. **Joe** demonstrated how to construct an easy gimmick to create more of an animation.



*Joe Mystic*

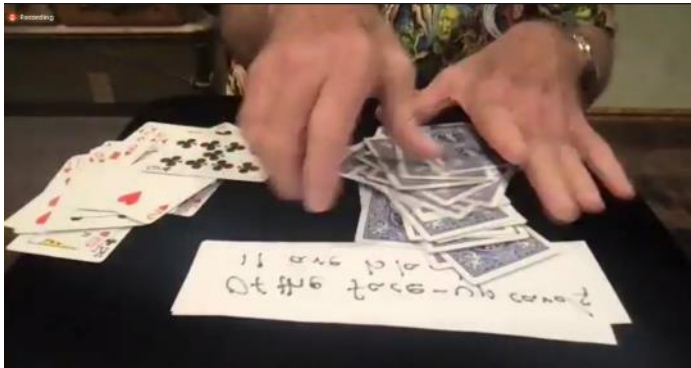
Next up was **Elissa Melor**. She used 9 cards and asked everyone to play along at home. She made 3 piles of 3 cards each, picked up two of the piles and stacked them up, but then had the audience remember the bottom card of the 3rd pile. Then she spelled out the card face down using 1 card at a time, then spelled the suit, then spelled magic, and **Elissa** ended up with the selected card. She explained it was a **Jim Steinmeyer** effect called “Mind Card Speller”.



*Elissa Melor*

**Matthew King** introduced the final auction item, “The Diamond Silk Fountain” by **Jay Scott Berry**. Member **Miguel Garcia** won the auction item.

The next performer was **Bob Meigs**. He liked calling his presentation “Elementary”, performing in the guise of Sherlock Holmes. He cut a deck in half, mixed the two packs part face-up and part face-down, and then put the packs together. He showed 4 predictions. The first said “You will have



*Bob Meigs*

23 cards face-up”, and the spectator counts and confirms. The second prediction indicated “11 of the face-up cards will be black”, the third prediction said “All of the black cards are Clubs”, and they were, except 1. The last prediction named the 1 odd card. Then **Bob** explained it to members. Someone mentioned it may be called “Shuffle Bored” by **Simon Aronson**, or possibly “Predictability”, and another member mentioned he remembered it as “The Trick that Can’t Be Explained”, and another remembered it as “Little Bunny Trick”.

**Robert Vinson**. Explained a book test called “The Easy Book Test” based on the 1089 method. The performer has multiple books, a spectator selects one, they end up on a page number and memorize the 9th word. The performer can reveal what word they have in mind. **Greg Wauson** thanked **Robert Vinson** for his contributions to **Ring 76** and told him we will miss him. **Robert** indicated he would like to remain a member.



*Robert Vinson*

**Greg Wauson** recommended members check out an article in the February issue of **The Linking Ring** called “Magic Mentors” by **David Ginn**.

The next magic presenter was **Miguel Garcia**. He thanked the club members for their friendship, and said he enjoys being a part of the club. He taught an effect he showed to **Josh Sherwin** and the late **Jeff Marcus** at Denny’s after our meetings some time back called “Estimation Aces”. He demonstrated being able to cut to each of the aces from a shuffled



*Miguel Garcia*



deck, and then explained how to set up the deck and perform it.

The last performer, **Matthew King**, taught one called “Card Divination” from the book “How to be (a fake) Kreskin”. You have a spectator shuffle and cut any deck of cards, and you’re able to divine the top two cards. **Matthew** explained how the effect can surprise people, as he surprised members by stepping away from his table to reveal he was in a suit from the waist up, and in shorts and flip-flops from the waist down.



*Matthew King*

**Rick Bruce** mentioned that former **Ring 76** member **Mike Feldman** was on **Penn & Teller**. Members briefly discussed the history of **Doug Henning** and “The Magic Show” on Broadway.

**Greg Wauson** asked if members would like to sign up for the stand-up contest, and absent enough sign-ups we would discuss a themed performance night in lieu of the contest.

President **Richard Ustick** adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

We currently offer non-resident memberships so you can join in the fun at **Ring 76** via **Zoom**. Please contact [JT4@Ring76.com](mailto:JT4@Ring76.com) for details.

— *Matthew King*

## Elections

As you are all aware, Ring 76 does not run itself. It is managed by a Board of Directors who is responsible for giving you the club and activities you enjoy. The Board is elected from the active membership every June and as part of the constitutional requirements for that election, the Board must present a slate of officers to the election committee. The Board did that this last month and that slate is;

- President - Mike Stilwell
- VP Entertainment - Greg Wauson
- VP Membership - James Thayer
- Secretary - Matt King
- Treasurer - Joe Mystic
- Sgt @ Arms - David Chiu
- Member @ Large - Richard Ustick (Past Pres)
- Member @ Large - Mark Booth
- Member @ Large - Gary Salisbury

This is the recommendation of the Board as required by the Constitution but it is not your new board. Any member in good standing may run for any office and serve the Ring they enjoy being a part of. If you are interested in serving on the Board in any capacity (Presidential candidates have to have served on the Board in another capacity previously) then please contact the Election Committee at [Ring76ibm@yahoo.com](mailto:Ring76ibm@yahoo.com). They will answer any of your questions and give you the information you need to make an informed decision.



— *Richard Ustick*

## Dues

April Showers bring May Flowers. And May Flowers bring...moving men? No. They bring Ring 76 dues notices. Yes, it is that time of year again..



They are due as of June 30th and we hope as many members as possible will be able to renew by that date. The amount is \$30. We have two ways to pay.

You can pay by mail: make a check out to “IBM Ring 76” and send it to: Ring 76; c/o James Thayer; 9556 Babauta Road; San Diego, CA 92129.

You can also send your dues via PayPal by sending payment to <payments@ring76.com>.

And, as long as you are paying dues and you have not already done so, please let me know if we can include your phone number and/or e-mail address in the Ring 76 Contact List on Arcanum.

If for any reason, you are not intending to renew your membership this year, we will appreciate knowing this (and we will stop bugging you for dues.)

We are aware the Covid-19 pandemic has put a crimp into many members finances and that membership in Ring 76 may be a difficult choice under the circumstances. Please let us know if this is the case — we would rather not lose members and we are motivated to work something out so that you may remain a member of Ring76.

— James Thayer

## *Shavings From the Board*

26Apr21

The meeting was held via Zoom and it was called to order at 7:07 pm. by President **Richard Ustick**. Also in attendance were First V.P. (Entertainment) **Greg Wauson**, Second V.P. (membership) **James Thayer**, Treasurer **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy**, Sergeant-at-arms **Dave Chiu**, Secretary **Matthew King**, Member-at-large **Mike Stilwell**, and Member-at-large and Ring 76 Librarian **Gary Salisbury**. Also present were Social Media rep. **Mark Booth**.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March board meeting minutes were approved.



### REPORTS

#### Treasurer Report, Joe “Mystic”

**McGrievy:** Joe shared his list of expenses and our current financial status. We paid 1and1 web hosting two times this month, and reimbursed **Gary Salisbury** for his purchases for the library storage supplies. We also purchased an Amazon Gift Card for the newsletter challenge winner. Our current balance on hand is \$2,631.29 and **Joe** shared his screen showing the bank account reflected the same.

#### Second VP (Membership), James

**Thayer:** James indicated we are ending the 2020-2021 year with 53 members. We had 57 members at the beginning of the year, but 4 members passed on this year. Dues are starting to come in, and we received 5 renewals via PayPal and 3 payments via mailed checks. **James** revisited the idea of a new hosting plan, and the most complicated part would be transferring the emails to the new host. It could reduce the monthly cost from approximately \$15 to \$5 or \$6 per month.

#### Sergeant-at-Arms Report, David

**Chiu:** David indicated we had 25 members and 3 guests at the April meeting, and we discussed having guests at the meetings and drawing more attention to Ring 76.

#### Library Report and Discussion, Gary

**Salisbury:** Gary indicated he helped a member who had difficulty getting on the Plex Server, and he took that knowledge to create a “Dummy’s” guide to getting on our media server. The Ring 76 online media server is now available to, both, Ring 76 Members and non-resident Ring 76 members. **David Chiu** has finished working on a script for a “how-to”



video regarding using the Plex Server and sent it to **Gary** during the meeting. **Gary** asked if his “Dummy’s” guide could help with it, too. **David** mentioned there are a few members now starting to access the online media more frequently.

### **First VP (Entertainment), Greg**

**Wauson: Greg** recapped the last meeting. We had 8 performers and he was glad to see member **Bob Meigs** join and participate in our “Teach-a-Trick” meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Richard Ustick** brought up the April meeting and auctions. **Matthew King** discussed the auctions, which produced a total of \$131 during the meeting. He also showed updated video overlays, and the progress on a new flyer for the newsletter. We briefly discussed the possibility of using Zoom in the future for meetings, non-resident members, or lectures.

**Richard Ustick** mentioned **Bob Meigs** has offered his house to host the installation banquet, as asked for opinions. It was decided to leave it up to the members to make their own choice, and possibly set up a Zoom link to broadcast it simultaneously. Members briefly discussed vaccines, wearing masks, and erring on the side of caution. **Mark Booth** mentioned his doctor told him hospitalizations were at their lowest point since April of last year.

**Richard Ustick** inquired as to starting live meetings in August and finding a location. **Mike Stilwell** mentioned using the Elks Club in El Cajon by having **Joe “Mystic” McGrievy** sign up for a membership at \$250 for the year, and we may be able to save rent funds. We could have access to the outdoor stage, indoor stage, etc. A vote was taken for **Joe** to gather initial information about it. **Greg Wauson** asked about the status of the senior community center. **Mike Stilwell** indicated he called and was informed they must follow the Governor’s guidelines for senior centers. **Mark Booth** pulled up the El Cajon Elks Lodge website and shared photos of it. **Gary Salisbury**

mentioned the San Carlos Elks Lodge, and **Joe** said he will check both. **Richard Ustick** indicated it may be good to also see if there’s an option more centrally located. **Greg** mentioned to also make sure there will be no scheduling issues with securing our meeting dates in advance.

**Richard Ustick** emailed I.B.M. International about who’s going to install Ring 76, as we lost our Territorial Vice President this year. **Richard** also mentioned he is still storing the Universal Monster cutouts. **Mike Stilwell** mentioned advertising them in the newsletter. **Gary Salisbury** mentioned he can store them at his house, if necessary. **Matthew King** offered to photograph them for sale. **Richard** asked **Greg Wauson** to connect with **Bob Meigs** to find out if the Haunted Hotel might be interested or what we might expect to receive for them.

**Richard Ustick** asked if there is any new business. **David Chiu** mentioned we might want to tell the members to pay via “friends and family” when using PayPal so we can save on fees. **Greg Wauson** mentioned the votes for the May meeting will count towards the Performer of the Year award, and there were only 3 sign-ups for the Stand-up Competition. **Greg** also mentioned we will have a special surprise guest magician joining us at the May meeting, and he also talked briefly with **Gregory Wilson** about returning with some new material for our members in the future.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.**

— *Matthew King*

## ***Magic Shop!***

NOW IS THE TIME to score on some AMAZING deals on magic items, new and old! All proceeds are going to Ring 76, and items are being offered at a DEEPER DISCOUNT to members only before going public. Please help support the club while also getting some fun new magic effects to play with!

All items are sold on a first come, first served basis, so don’t delay! All items are sold “as is”. We expect many of these items to sell fast, so grab a pen or



pencil NOW, make a list, and EMAIL IT IN to [MagicSales@Ring76.com](mailto:MagicSales@Ring76.com)!

This list will be regularly updated, so check back often. All items expire if not sold within sixty (60) days, and will be made available to the public at a higher price.

Arrangements can be made for convenient car-side pickup in Point Loma, doorstep delivery can be coordinated (with a \$25 minimum purchase), or the actual shipping costs can be added to your order.

In your e-mail, specify delivery method, and whether paying via PayPal or Check, and we will respond with confirmation, availability of items, and provide your total. Time is of the essence to ensure you are first in line for any of these, so if something catches your eye, act fast!

Check this [link for further details](#) and to see what is for sale!

— Matthew King

## Newsletter challenge question

It's time again for your opportunity for fame and fortune by taking on the infamous newsletter challenge. If you spot the answer to our question and are the first to send it in an email to VP of Entertainment, [Greg Wauson](#), you will become the proud owner of a \$10 Amazon eGift card! Please put "Newsletter challenge" in the subject line of the email. All Ring 76 members are eligible, except board members and the previous month's winner.

Congratulations to our April winner, Mark Booth!

Here's our May newsletter challenge question:

What will be the surprise at our meeting on May 10th? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter.

— Greg Wauson



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**



Don't forget that Ring 76 has a private area just for members called [Arcanum](#). There you can find contact information for other Ring 76 members and numerous magical documents are available for download. Contact [James Thayer](#) for instructions on how to log in for the first time.



Ring 76 is still looking for a new editor for MagiCurrents. It's a great opportunity to put your stamp on this organization. If interested, contact [James Thayer](#).

