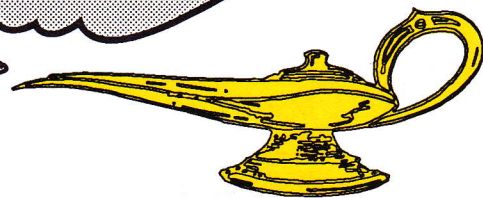


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Membership Dues April is here and its time to pay dues. Please complete the form included and return it with your payment at the April meeting or mailed to Julie Dale (2447 Nielsen Street, El Cajon, CA 92020).

Feedback On the back of your form, why not take a few minutes to scribble down some comments. The Board's term is ending. Board Members would like to hear from you regarding club successes and failures of the past year.

Officers It is time for a nominations committee to recommend new leadership for the coming year. If you have the time and inclination to be an officer of Ring 76, please see any Board Member or the nominations committee.

Lecture - Billy McComb Don't miss this one. Mr. McComb is a treasure of magic. He has been entertaining folks since before ... well, you know. Billy is the son of a physician and himself a physician (who never practiced). Billy's been inventing marketed effects for over half a century. A native of Ireland, he moved to the U.S in 1967. Throughout his career he has performed for countless audiences in most venues including: television, nightclubs, cruises, radio, and theater. His charm will disarm you, he's a true professional with a razor wit, perfect timing and keen insight into entertainment.

Sergeant at Arms Dick Bush has, delightfully, decided to retain his office as Sergeant at Arms. Marcia will remain his alternate.

Thanks to those members who have moved away, but will be continuing their membership. We want to stay in touch.

Warm regards,

Richard B. Waterhouse

BOARD MEETING

By Mark Flores

Sherry Luft hosted the Board Meeting with Rick Waterhouse, Jeff Marcus, Julie and Dick Dale, Greg Wauson, Dick Bush and Mark Flores. Rick designed a form to serve as an information-gathering device as well as a record of members. The Board favors a confidential membership directory, for Ring 76 exclusively. Please fill out the form included in this issue and return it. The information will be incorporated in the new membership directory/database.

Billy McComb is the scheduled main event for our April meeting (10th) at the Hungry Hunter. Non-members must pay a \$10.00 fee to attend the McComb lecture (for \$20.00 become a Ring 76 member for a year!).

The Board discussed combining the offices of Treasurer and Second Vice President since they are similar. At the next Board Meeting the constitution bylaws will be discussed and this topic will most likely be incorporated. Also, in the next couple months, the Board will be announcing a nominating committee who will propose a slate of officers. Be the future of Ring 76! Talk to a Board members about running for office, Ring 76 needs you.

Finally, the Board discussed the club successes and failures over the past year promoting the Art of Magic. As some old saying goes. "a club is only as good as its members." If you want to see something different or see more of something talk to a Board Member or

come to a Board Meeting (on the fourth Monday of the month, the location listed in the newsletter). All members are welcome. We really do need your input if this club is to properly serve you: Ring 76.

LAST MEETING or what you missed

By Greg Wauson

Our March pre-meeting featured a panel discussion on patter and showmanship. These topics play an integral part in making the difference between dynamite entertainment and mediocre performance. We were fortunate to have the distinguished panel of Messrs. Dick Dale, Jeff Marcus and Richard Bush, all experienced performers. They shared their experience, views as well as questions and comments from the audience.

Several members told of their favorite parts of the recent Las Vegas Desert Magic Seminar. Everyone who went agreed this was one hot magic convention.

The theme for the performance part of this month's meeting was St. Patrick's Day. Jim Jolly, a new club member, did a fine job with a wild card effect. Next was Ed Raymond who performed a Rubik's cube die box. Greg Wauson performed a 20th century silk effect. Jeff Marcus magically freed a silk trapped in a glass, effortlessly. Roy Armstrong demonstrated how a leprechaun appeared or disappeared at will from a large card. Roy also did a Green Family silk effect.

GAUGHAN FISHIN'

Part 4

By Rick Waterhouse

- RW: I know that this is not an easy question, but what makes good magic?
- JG: Boy, where do you start there? Well, you want to have something that gets a positive reaction from the audience. Something that puts a little smile on their face, something to hold their attention. It's always the music, the lights, the movement, it's everything. You know you're using the basic elements of illusion there. It's not just one thing. It's everything kind of moving together.
- RW: So it's a complete experience?
- JG: Yes. I mean even the costuming, the way they handle themselves. And any one of those little things can be an irritant, put the audience off a little bit.
- RW: What's the place of amateurs or hobbyists in magic, and their responsibilities?
- JG: Well, you hit on the key word, Responsibility. Everyone started out as an amateur. It's just that the responsibility is in the magic organizations, in your friends, and the magic shops. It's up to the IBMs the SAMs, rather than encouraging mediocre magic, rather than giving the trophy every time and all that,... even the Magic Castle, they've got to be up front and honest and give constructive criticism to these people. Don't let the same stuff go on. There's so many people that we all know out there that are doing... You look at it and you say, "Gosh, don't they listen to anyone?" Well, maybe it's that no one's telling them. So I think we all, as amateurs or professionals, we all have a responsibility to help the others along. And too, the amateurs, they should listen. You know, don't be fooled by doing it in front of a mirror. I used to do birthday parties, when I got started out. I was a wonderful performer and my little sister used to say "you know, you're not foolin' anyone." and she would always grab the deck of cards or she says "do it like this."
- RW: Did you listen to her?
- JG: Yeah! I mean, of course she devastated me, and she was right. Well, you see, if you're a piano player, ya gotta be able to do that. If you go out in front of an audience and you can't play the piano, Bang! They pick it up right away. Unfortunately, in magic, there are some props that help carry along the amateur a little further than you wanna be. So, ok, they can do the svengali deck, they can fool you with that, then they go to something they can't quite do too well.
- RW: They outreach themselves?
- JG: Yeah, very quickly, and they're already hooked on that reaction, that feedback. Well hell, I just experienced it. You know, I was a star. Oh! I would open the curtain and all these people applauding and smiling at me... and loving me. Then, the very next day I go to see the next show that comes in and I'm sitting there in the audience and these people don't know me. It's like you get this false sense of elation and you feed off of it. And me, as an amateur performer, it's very easy for me to say "my god, what a weird thing!" You know, it's there, but it's really not there. That's what you gotta be able to pick up on while you're performing. You got to constantly reevaluate what you're doing.
- RW: But that can be painful.
- JG: Yeah.

COMING UP

Apr. 10 Ring 76 Meeting
Location: Hungry Hunter
6:30 Pre-meeting:
Dues
7:30pm Lecture
Billy McComb

Apr. 24 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm Sherry Luft's

May 4-6 Int'l Battle of Magic
Canton, OH.
(216) 494-2623

May 8 Ring 76 Meeting
Location: Hungry Hunter
6:30pm Pre-meeting:
"Chemistry Magic"
7:30pm Meeting
Theme: "Flower Magic"

May 12-13 NW Magic Jamboree
Tigard, OR.
(503) 236-6541

May 22 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm The Dale's

June 1-4 Las Vegas Close-Up
MGM Grand Hotel
Las Vegas, NV.

June 12 Ring 76 Meeting
Location: Hungry Hunter
6:30 Pre-meeting: Coins
Theme: "Kids Magic"

June 17 Ring 21's "Day Of Magic"
Beverly Garland
Holiday Inn, Hollywood

June 19 Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm The Dale's

July 10 Ring 76 Meeting
Installation Banquet
Villani's (Same as '94)

July 5-8 S.A.M National
Convention
Boston, Mass.

July 12-15 67th Annual IBM
Convention
Oakland, CA.

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