



MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XIX No. 3 March 2000

The February Meeting

You Should Have Been There!

This month's meeting fell on St. Valentine's Day, and while some thought our hearts would be elsewhere. We were pleasantly wrong.

The pre-meeting was one of our semi-annual teach-ins. Rather than have a set subject, the board elected to have an open seminar. Ring 76 has a plethora of talent and this teach-in tapped it. From double-lifts to Elmsley counts, from coins to cards to stage technique, everyone talked, and many learned. The comradery of the Ring reflected the day.

The business meeting was called to order by president **Julie Dale**. Sergeant-at-Arms **Ralph Mauzy** reported 23 members and 5 guests were in attendance. Each member then introduced the guest they brought. VP

Membership **Tom La Chance** had the honor of presenting new member **Seth Asser** with his official membership card and certificate. The minutes from the last Ring and Board meetings were then approved and treasurer **Gary Dismukes** reported favorably on our financial status. Membership dues are due in April and March will be the annual Swap Meet and Auction. **Tom La Chance** then reported on shows and lectures soon to be held at the Magicopolis in Santa Monica. Past president **Gary Schwartzwald** reported the Australian magician Pat-Trick will be giving his lecture Thursday, March 2. **Jeff Marcus** reported that Lee Asher has returned from Paris and that the Ring may want to hear from him. The Board will discuss it at the next meeting. Member **Diane Lane** gave us an update on her cable access show, "Magical Moments." She produces the show and is the MC. Diane hopes to use it as a showcase for area talent. VP Entertainment **Dick Dale** was happy to announce that the next guest lecturer will be Docc Hilford. He will be here in April. With no further business, that part of the meeting was adjourned.

The theme for the magic tonight was no theme. Open stage, members

could do what they wanted. Favorite tricks, old tricks, new ideas waiting for an audience test, all were encouraged.

The **Amazing Armstrongs, Roy and Betty**, started the entertainment. Borrowing a handkerchief from Tom La Chance, and placing it in a change bag, it promptly fell out. Roy then cut a whole in the center, and spent the rest of the routine trying to restore it. After final success Roy entertained us with a dirty detergent joke. We do not get enough of the Armstrongs.

The next up was **Gary Dismukes**. He told the story of magician of the century, Harry Houdini, and his daring escape from a giant deck of cards. Using more traditional size props, Gary recreated the feat with the help of Betty Armstrong. Houdini, represented by the seven of spades, escaped from a card case, wrapped in a rubber band, only to appear inside a balloon. All to the amazement of the audience.

Don Soul then got up and exalted the virtues of "Gorilla Snot." We all expected one of his trademark tricks or jokes, but he was serious. Used by musicians to keep their picks in hand, this sticky goo helps Don with all his palms. Ask for it at music stores, just be careful how you ask.

See Meeting on Page 2

March is Auction Month!

Did you trip over that video case *AGAIN* last night? Did your in-laws give you *ANOTHER* set of Chinese Sticks for Christmas this year? Have you switched *AGAIN*

Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Rick Asher took us all back to his early days as a circus magician. During his off times he would watch the sideshow geeks do their fire eating. He demonstrated this, reluctantly, by first eating a lit match, then a whole book. Children, don't try this at home.

Tom Kasner presented a "Dealer Demo" of sorts. He demonstrated his "Haunted Briefcase." Anything written or drawn under the shield of the briefcase can be mentally focused on by the magician. Words or pictures, shapes or questions, Kasner knew them all. And all for around \$1200.

Seth Asser entertained us with an amusing story of crossed communication in Papal Italy, while **Jeff Marcus** impressed the house by finding four aces in the deck, using only one hand. **Paul Thomey** told of his dream of fellow magician Diane Lane. A chosen card, like in the dream, was signed and replaced in the deck, only to appear folded in a money clip on another table. They don't call Paul a "Dimensionalist" for nothing.

Finally **Alfonso Vasquez** ended the evening entertainment on an audio note. Giving a small microphone to a member of the audience, he then had a spectator choose a card, the Eight of Clubs, and replace it in the deck. When the button on the microphone was pushed, it announced the chosen card. Next, the Ace of Hearts was chosen and replaced in a deck that Alfonso placed in his pocket. Cards were removed and the spectator had to say "bigger or smaller," depending on the card. Finally, Alfonso removed a

from Clown to Close-up and don't know what to do with all of that paraphernalia? March is your month!

Yes it's that time of year again. March madness! **Ring 76 Swap Meet and Auction** at the American Legion Hall March 13th starting at 6:30pm.

Tables for the Swap Meet are only \$5.00 at the door, or can be reserved by calling Gary Dismukes @ (619)549-8717.

very large card, which turned out to be, the Ace of Hearts.

The wide variety of talent that Ring 76 is known for, was aptly represented this Valentine evening.

Board Meeting

The February Board meeting was called to order at 19:00, at the home of VP Membership Tom La Chance. President Julie Dale called the meeting to order. All Board members were present.

The first order of business was the upcoming lecture by Pat-Trick. To be held on March 3rd at the American Legion hall, the fee is \$12 for both members and non-members.

The March meeting will be on the 13th, and is the annual Swap Meet/Auction. Tables will be \$5.00 each and may be paid in advance, or at the door. The Auction fee will be the donation of an auction able item for the Ring. Tom La Chance will be the auctioneer. Members and guests will pick up a card, with their number, when they sign in at the door. This is a major fund raiser for the Ring and all members are encouraged to participate.

The April meeting will be on the 10th. Ring 76 dues will be due at that time. The evening will also feature guest lecturer "Docc Hilford." Billed as a

To auction off your magical treasures you only need to donate an actionable item to Ring 76 (suggested value \$15).

Members and guests welcome.

funny "weirdist," his unique, believable, magic is a new style most of us have never seen. The lecture will focus on Close-Up, Mentalism, and Children's magic. This lecture is free to all members in good standing, with a nominal fee for guests.

The May meeting will feature "Money Magic." Members are encourage to perform their favorite tricks involving the coin of the realm. The new quarters, and the new dollar coin, have generate a host of new effects. May will be the time to present them. The pre-meeting, at this time, will feature performances from San Diego's own A.C.E.S. This troop of young, talented, magicians has been making its mark in the world of magic, and we look forward to seeing them.

June is rapidly approaching, and that is the month for our annual "Stand-Up competition," as well as the election of officers.

"Stand-Up Performer of the Year" is one of three awards presented by

Ring 76. All members interested in performing in the competition should see Dick Dale. June is also election time, and the slate of candidates should be presented by May. Any member interested in running for office should contact VP Membership, Tom La Chance.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on April 24th, at the home of Treasurer Gary Dismukes. All members are welcome.



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Slysi
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Membership Questions should be sent
to the club treasurer, Gary
Dismukes.

All Ring 76 members must be members
in good standing with the International
Brotherhood of Magicians.

Articles, contributions, and letters should
be sent to:

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Message from the President

CALLING ALL MAGICIANS!!

Public Announcement! This column may be subject to magician alert Interruptions.

One of the more exciting and thrilling meetings that we have many requests....*MAGICIAN BRAD BURT, where are you?*...for each year is to make sure we have....*MAGICIAN JOSEF RENNLEITNER, where are you?*...an auction or swap met. Everyone likes and wants to ...*MAGICIAN FREDDIE SANCHEZ, where are you?*....unload and gain magical goodies.

We ...*MAGICIAN MARY BROWN, where are you?*...always have a laughing good time and go home with great treasures...*MAGICIANS DEBBIE AND GABE, where are you?*...*MAGICIAN BRYAN MCDANIELS, where are you?*... The club gains as well with your generous donated auction item...*MAGICIAN J. P. JACKSON, where are you?*... *MAGICIAN TOM OWEN, where are you?*...which we are very grateful and you're glad to get rid of it.....*MAGICIAN MIKE STILWELL, where are you?*

It's too noisy here trying to write a message. See you at the AUCTION AND SWAP MEET.

President

Julie Dale



Magical Moments TV Show

Here in San Diego on Channel 16
TW and 24 Cox Cable
Public Broadcast Local Television

Watch Diane Lane and her many talented guests on TV. The show features a variety of artists from all over San Diego.

See your favorite magicians, clowns, ventriloquists, animal keepers and more!

If you would like to be a guest on the show please contact Diane at dvlane@san.rr.com.

We are also always looking for crew members. If you are interested in learning, or already have experience, please contact me at (619) 203-9986 or e-mail me.

Producer- Diane Lane
Director- Victoria Turner
Asst. Director- Ken Lanewood
Floor Director- Michael "Ollie" Oliver
Cameras- Ollie, Robert Ward & Bill Lane
Lighting- Vance Kaopuiki

Magical Moments Productions will videotape your next event. Digital and 35mm camera work available. We have professional photographers who will attend your event for those lasting memories. Now available with digital cameras.

Quick and easy e-mail accessibility!

~ Top Magic & Illusion Forum Topics
 ~ Magic Chat [on Tuesdays]
 ~ Be an expert!
 ~ Become a Member of Magic & Illusion!
 ~ The Magic & Illusion Affiliate Program
 ~ Elsewhere at About.com...

"Refund the Money?": GREAT Thread!
 "The Big Bucks":
 "Help in Getting the Tips":
 "This is for Restaurant Magicians":

Don't forget the Magic & Illusion BUY/SELL Area, too!

----- Magic Features -----THE
 BOUNCING DINNER ROLL"

Gain the strength of the Samurai and lean this
 easy-to-do trick!

"THE KARATE DOLLAR"

Gain the strength of the Samurai and lean this
 easy-to-do trick!

"A VALENTINE'S MAGIC!"

Did you know the easiest way to meet someone is
 through magic? Read and
 find out how!

MAGIC TIP OF THE WEEK

"Can You Hear Me...?"

Do you own and use a PA system for your magic
 shows?

-- New Magic & Illusion Net Links -----

-- RESOURCES --

"Faro Shuffle Program" -- A program to analyze the
 effects of a Faro
 Shuffle on a deck of cards. Really, really neat!

-- REVIEWS --

"The Magic Book Guide" -- Reviews of books
 about stage magic, magicians,
 illusion, deception and related arts.

=> TAKE THE MAGIC POLL!

Relating to the "Tip of the Week", do you have a
 PA system for your magic
 shows?

----- The Magic & Illusion FORUM ----

Here are some of the topics being discussed at the
 FORUM. Help the
 beginners and answer those questions, if you can.

----- The Magic & Illusion CHAT -----

The Magic Chat, "Talk About Magic", at Magic &
 Illusion is now SEVEN DAYS A WEEK! And, the
 Magic & Illusion Chat is now ranked as the TOP
 MAGIC CHAT IN THE WORLD! (Thanks to you.)

Nightly: 8:30 PM Eastern - 5:30 PM Pacific - 2:30 GMT
 Hosted by "YomoHOST" "LadyMagic" and
 "bootsHOST", with TUESDAY NIGHT Chats hosted
 by me, Bryan Dean.

"Late-Nite" Chat at 2 AM Eastern (11 PM Pacific).
 NOW... DAY CHATS WITH "AaronHOST"! All morning
 AND afternoon!

I NEED YOUR HELP! We are getting a LOT of
 beginners in the Magic &
 Illusion Forum. Can you help out and answer some of
 their questions. Give some advice; be an expert!

BECOME A MEMBER OF MAGIC & ILLUSION!

As a member, you'll have easy access to chat, forum
 (bulletin board) and
 recent articles on the Magic & Illusion site. If you are a
 regular in chat you might want to use you chat name
 as your member name.

Membership also serves as your forum registration.
 The NEW membership
 form will not ask for any personal information!

*Once again, this is but an
 abbreviated version of the
 information Magic & Illusion has to
 offer. I strongly suggest you check
 them out at About.com*

Editor

Working Without A.NET

*The Computer, and the Internet, is a
 great resource for the magician who
 knows how to use it. Consume
 Professional or Talented Amateur, there
 is a wealth of information at the touch of a
 key.*

*From time to time MagiCurrents will
 bring suggestions to its readers of sites of
 interest. In this issue we look at the
 "Magic and Illusion" site on About.com.
 This is an abbreviation of the
 "newsletter" that members can subscribe
 to.. that keeps you informed of everything
 Magic & Illusion has to offer.
 -ed.-*

THE MAGIC & ILLUSION NEWS

>From your About.com Guide to Magic
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FEEL FREE to pass this newsletter to a friend! And visit
 us at <http://magic.about.com>

~ New Trick: "The Bouncing Dinner Roll"
 ~ Last Week's Trick: "The Karate Dollar"
 ~ "A Valentine's Magic"
 ~ Magic Tip of the Week: "Can you hear me...?"
 ~ NEW SECRET MAGIC CHAT ROOM #2!! (See details
 below!)

~ Magic Poll: "Do you own a PA system for your
 shows?"

~ The Faro Shuffle Program

~ The Magic Book Guide

Fox, once again, Hounds the art of Magic

New "Masked Magician" takes "exposure" to the streets.

Warning: Tirade follows. Please ignore/delete if not interested in a rant! ;-)

Well, I must say I they did find a way to pi** me off right off the bat!!!

Short of "Fox Exposes slightly bizarre novice wizards who specialize in seances and who believe in Real Magic", there wasn't much more that they could have done to nail me.

1. Although this announcer was not quite as nasty as Mitch Pelleggi, he was still pretty condescending and insulting. I would think a lay person would feel embarrassed that they enjoyed magic after his badgering. Perhaps we don't all want people to believe in real magic, but none of us should want the prevailing impression to be "magic is for suckers".

2. The precedent of attacking, effect for effect, a particular performer or special is pretty ugly. What if it becomes SOP to follow each magic special with a targeted magic exposure. How many big magic specials will be aired? Even though we've been saturated with magic specials over the last few years, I

3. My presentation of Ashes is very strong. I can load differently (and occasionally do) and I can change the voodoo theme, but it's a shame that I'll have to. More over, I think that it is a shame that people who have had a genuinely magical experience (no, I don't try to play it off as 'real') watching my performance could be robbed of that experience in retrospect. BTW: He sucked at the trick, but we can discuss that another time.

4. I don't regularly use a Raven, but it is a cool prop that (unlike D'Lite for instance) hasn't been run into the ground yet.

5. Audiences who view this may never again believe that any magician doesn't use camera tricks.

I don't typically react very hysterically to these exposure specials, but this one tipped: Ashes, Center Tear, nail writing, double lifts, top changes, PK, shimmed objects, arm twisting, Balducci (which needed a rest anyway), and more. Eventually they'll include the thread exposure on a broadcast version of the show.

It won't kill magic, but it steals from my audiences past and future, steals from performers who earn their living with this material, and is generally an unnecessary hassle for those of us with strong routines based on these principles. I know that many of the principles can be used in more elegant

ways. I'm sure that you and I will still be able to get a center tear by folks. As time goes on, everyone will forget the exposures (even with a few re-airings that are not competing against the Grammy awards).

Nevertheless, what good comes from singling out and exposing one performer who has powerfully presented a number of strong effects that are being used by many other magicians around the world?

Respectfully,

Rick Bruce

hate to think that they may vanish altogether if the performers or the public lose interest.

P.S. On the other hand, I got a great laugh at that rube goldberg device

that he used to set the watch. Talk about a long way And from guest editorial Jon Hand
to go for an effect.

What is that thing called anyway?

Speaking of the Fox "Street Magic Revealed," the
worst part of the show

P.P.S. Any news yet on who was the magic advisor for was the crummy condescending attitude toward both
this one? I think the audience and magic.

that the on-screen guy was an actor playing a "Come on, now; you didn't REALLY think this was
magician. We can discuss the magic, did you?" What a
evidence on that one at dinner sometime. crock! It was as if we

magicians were perpetrating

some fraud upon the public, instead of providing
engaging entertainment! That "fraudulent" attitude
did far more damage to magic than exposure of the
Raven, the Center Tear, and the Cigarette Through
Quarter!

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 13 | Pre-Meeting: Swap Meet 6:30 pm
Meeting Theme: Auction
Board meeting 3/27 at the home
of Gary Dismukes 7:00pm |
| April 10 | Dues Due
Pre-Meeting: Dues collection 6:30 pm
Meeting Theme: Docc Hilford Lecture
Board meeting 4/24 at the home
of Gary Dismukes 7:00pm |
| May 8 | Pre-Meeting: ACES showcase 6:30
pm
Meeting Theme: Money Magic
Board meeting 5/22 at the home
of Julie Dale 7:00pm |

Remember!
Monday June 12 is
The Ring 76
Stand-Up
Competition!!!
Call Dick Dale today and say,
"I'm going to perform!"

