

MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XIV No. 5 May 2000

Message from the President

It's Spring!! Time to dust off and work on those inner feelings. Is it possible for everyone to become a good performing magician? Yes!! I recall back in the old days, when I was a budding *musician* (That's right *musician*). I was learning a musical instrument and slowly moved along with average appeal and acceptance. Then I felt competition and realized the biggest edge one can have is PRACTICE. All that needs to be done, is to starting practicing, then performing before the mirror, family and friends. Sometimes a one-on-one with a fellow magician can also be your best resource. This mentor/friend will coach and help you.

Now to get started is simply START. Best adage is "Practice makes Perfect". How many performances can we all imagine our professional idols have made? David Copperfield? Siegfried and Roy? Lance Burton? Betty and Roy Armstrong? Dick Dale? Jeff Smith? Jeff McBride? Jeff Marcus? Motivation we all have or we wouldn't even be part of an organized interest group. Skill we all have or we wouldn't even attempt to learn a trick only for our own amusement. Encouragement we all have, most of the people we

surround ourselves with are sharing our same dream and belief in ourselves. A must to remember. MAGIC IS FELT WITHIN FIRST. SECONDLY MAGIC IS DISPLAYED. THIRDLY MAGIC IS SHARED. LASTLY MAGIC IS ALIVE! Discover your inner magical self!!!

President

Julie Dale

Docc Hilford

A Day Late, but hardly short

By Dick Dale

After failing to show up on the regular meeting night when he was contracted to appear (Delta Airline's fault, not his), Docc Hilford and his lovely wife Nancy more than made up for the postponement. They promised to send everyone who showed up on the second night a "cool trick" and they also donated on of Docc's many video tapes to the Ring's raffle.

The lecture opened with Docc's edgy, hilarious version of Ramsey's Bean trick followed by Slydini's newspaper tear. He discussed, in detail, deck stacks, handling of spectators, and various obscure sleights. He also explained that his "Weird" magic could be defined as "believable and entertaining" magic.

The Dealer Demo part of the program included what was originally known as "The Brother of All Book Tests". It really is a killer trick! He also demonstrated "the Casandra Deck", a unique combination of several gaffed decks with unbelievable results.

Docc and Nancy are lovely, charming members of the magic community. If you missed the presentation this time, don't miss them if you get a second chance. It's well worth the effort.

April Meeting

April is when the tax man cometh, and also when Ring 76 dues are due. To help entice our membership to come and pay their respects, so-to-speak, Ring 76 also chooses April to host one of our "Guest Lectures."

This month's lecturer was to be Docc Hilford. Unfortunately, while Docc is a master of "Kidz, Kardz, and Killer Presentationz," he has yet to master the mystery that is the modern air travel. Hilford ran afoul of the on thing no magician can overcome, the delayed flight. The lecture was rescheduled for a later date, and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned. *[See review of rescheduled lecture on page 1]*

Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order, at 7 o'clock, by president Julie Dale. All members were present with the exception of Vice-President of Membership, Tom La Chance.

The first order of business was the upcoming election of officers. The by-laws of Ring 76 require a nominating committee to confirm a slate of candidates for the membership to vote on. It was decided that president Julie Dale will contact Roy and Betty Armstrong, and Sherry Luft and ask them to be this year's nominating committee. At the next meeting the floor will be opened for

the nomination of candidates for officers for the next year. The election will be held at the June meeting, and any member in good standing may run for any office. Currently the sitting Board has expressed interest in continuing their positions with the exception of Dick Dale, who will run for VP Membership, Tom La Chance, who will run for VP Entertainment, Don Soul, who will run for Sergeant-at-Arms, and Ralph Mauzy, who will run for Member-at-Large. Any member interested in running for office should contact Julie Dale or Richard Ustick.

This month's meeting theme will be money magic. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite monetary sleight-of-hand and share it with the membership. The pre-meeting will feature magic from San Diego's own ACES. This youth magic group under the light supervision of Rick Bruce and boasts a talented collection of young entertainers. There will also be a surprise at this meeting. It will be sponsored by the Board of Directors so come and win!

The next order of business was dues. VP Membership, Tom La Chance sent the current membership roster with those who paid their dues at the last meeting. The Board voted to send notices to those members who have yet to send their monies. The bills were addressed and Richard Ustick will mail them out in the morning.

The June meeting will feature our annual stand-up competition. This year the show will be held in the big room at the

American Legion hall, and members of the American Legion will be invited to attend. Those members who wish to perform, at this year's event should contact Dick Dale.

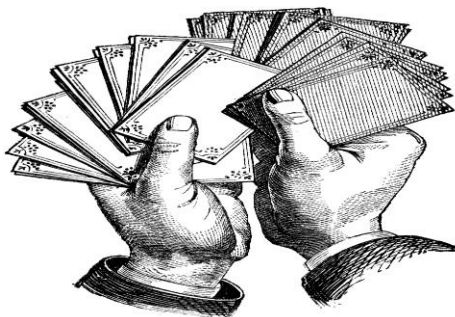
The July meeting will be the Installation Banquet. Elected officials will be sworn in at this dinner and the winners of the Close-Up competition, Stand-Up competition, Entertainer of the Year, and Member of the Year will be announced. Terry Lunceford will be performing that evening, and will be giving a lecture the following evening. Dinner will be catered and the cost for those attending will be announced in the next newsletter.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board Meeting will be at the home of Julie and

Board of Directors

Dick Dale, May 22, at 7:00pm. As always, all members are welcome.

Julie Dale- President



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The Forbidden Secret of Magic

Review by Dick Dale

On April 8, 2000 we attended a performance at Magicopolis in Santa Monica. The venue is a converted storefront that houses a non-alcoholic bar and lobby, an intimate seventy-seat close-up theater and a 200-seat stage theater. Both theaters feature wonderful sight lines with steeply raked seating.

The evening began with a half-hour close-up show given by owner Steve Spill. An old pro, Spill worked the crowd well with his spin on some old standards, Macdonald's Aces, and Bill in Lemon to mention two.

The main event followed immediately. The close-up attendees followed Spill to the large theater where they were given first choice of seating over those who had not attended the close-up show.

There were three performers in the show: Eugene Burger, Jeff McBride and Abbi Spinner. They play the roles of the lovable, cuddly gnome; the starring magician/musician/story-teller/mime; and the feminine love interest/escape artist(!)/musician, respectively.

Eugene does some of his old, original stuff set to a stage size setting as well as a couple of new pieces. Abbi assists and drums for him as well as Jeff. McBride is obviously the driving force behind this production with, I'm sure, a lot of input from Producer/Director Tobias Beckwith.

This show combines all of these elements to become one of the best magic shows that I have ever seen. Yes, it

needed work in spots, but the overall performance was wonderful. It was a graduate course in audience management. The differing styles of the two magi complement one another perfectly. It is charming and mysterious, disarming and deceiving. The two magicians were at the top of their form.

Jeff, Jake and Eugene

by Gary Schwartzwald

It started with a phone call from Tom LaChance and then the question; do you want to go? Of course the answer was yes, but what to do with the children. Easiest answer, bring them along. So

then we (Ann, Julie, Jacob, and I) had tickets to see Eugene Burger and Jeff McBride at Magicopolis in Santa Monica on April 8th and to meet the Dales, Dismukes, La Chances, and Souls, up there for the show. Next was the Ring 76 Swap Meet where to my good fortune Roy and Betty Armstrong were selling Linking Ring magazines. I bought the ones that had Jeff McBride on the cover. Clever aye?

After dinner we got to Magicopolis where Tom La Chance pointed out that Jeff McBride was hanging around behind us. I took Julie and Jake over and they each got his autograph on the recently purchased Linking Ring magazine covers. I also took a picture of each kid with McBride. I convinced Don Soul to have me take his picture with McBride,

while Don dangled a stolen watch over McBride's shoulder. The photo came out very well, don't you think? We then went into the close-up show with Magicopolis owner Steve Spill performing. Spill was relaxed and trying to entertain not show off. Julie and Jacob were in the front row with the rest of us behind them. Jake was selected to be the main assistant. Though he stayed in his seat he was part of most tricks. Spill had Jake be the one to sign cards and money, and do all the writing. Any time someone came in late, the audience was trained to; upon hearing the name Jacob, break out into wild applause. Jake got quite a boost from all this attention. We then were ushered into the big show where Burger and McBride were shaking hands with and greeting each member of the audience as they walked in. The show was excellent, with some weak spots and very well paced. McBride's significant other, Abby Spinner was also featured in the show. McBride came down into the audience to find a child to help him with from the show. Jake's best line came after the show, "I always thought you went to magic shows and other kids got picked to go on stage."

That's the story of our experience and how the photo came to be. If you would like to know more about the show than about my family, please ask, I'm happy to talk about that too. I strongly urge you to go to Magicopolis as soon as you can. The price is right, the venue is great, every seat is great, and of course, it's magic. Oh, the wand's not solid gold, but the memories are.

The Miser's Dream trick. He selected Jake and drew him on stage by having him drum the Miser's Dream bucket with a magic wand. McBride had Jacob mimic him and Jake's charm, reluctance, and willingness combined to make this the high point of the show. Jake did a great job and had McBride laughing, smiling, and breaking character.

See Magicopolis on page 4

Subscriptions to MagiCurrents are \$10 per year for out of area magicians.

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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Magicopolis

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Coins came off the top of Jake's head, from his nose, mouth, armpit, and butt. Jake received a commemorative solid gold wand from McBride and Abby took a Polaroid of Jake, Jeff and, Eugene on

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stage together. After the show I took pictures of each kid with Eugene Burger and they got autographed playing cards

Hello, again!

I keep finding interesting stuff for next to nothing at the dollar stores. Check out your local Dollar General, Everything's a Dollar, Big Lots, Odd Lots, Dollar Tree, etc. Party stores are good, too, but often more expensive than a dollar for things that are a dollar at these places.

Today's find concerns DICE and ROPES. For \$1 each package, I found:

A. 12 dice: 4 white-with-black-spots, 4 red-with-white-spots, and 4 green-with-white-spots. These are not the little dice, these are the larger ones that come in better board games. These are made in China, and so you need to look them over for sloppy painting of the spots, but that only takes a moment, since the 5's and 6's are facing front in the package. Four of each one makes some interesting possibilities, don't you think?

B. A pair of large (2 inches or so) dice in a net bag. These come in white-with-black-spots, and an array of colors. The white ones come in pairs; the colors come two different ones to a bag, so you could get a white

Guest Editorial

Tax time and dues are over, and if you are like me (and I know I am) you find you are day older and several dollars short. What can a struggling magician do to keep his show on the road? Frequent contributor Jon A. Hand has some ideas to share.-ED

pair for a buck and two mismatched ones for another buck. Or get two identically-colored sets, and you will have (say, for example) a pair of greens and a pair of reds. These dice are made of firm rubber, have rounded edges that make them "roll" well, and are perfect sizes for cups and ball loads; I got one pair of white and one mis- matched pair so that the three disparate colors make three distinctive loads for Cups and Balls.

you don't know how to do this one, address below). Keep the extra ropes for supplies, or cut off the handles and make into Professor's Nightmare. Choose sets carefully, and you will get four matching rubber balls in bright yellow, green, or pink (one with each jump rope) and 24 large (twice the size of old-fashioned metal) rubber jacks for your Cups and Balls, or production device.

Just go into a dollar store and look around. A little imagination and a few bucks go a LONG way.

Have fun!

Jon A. Hand, age 74, is a lifelong amateur magician who started at age 8. He can be reached at Jon.hand@n2music.com

Just go into a dollar store and look around. A little imagination and a few bucks go a LONG way.

C. Jump Ropes with Rubber Ball and Rubber Jacks. The ropes come in white with colored stripes and have nice, bold fuchsia or chartreuse plastic handles. Get four matching sets for a buck each, and do CUT AND RESTORED JUMP ROPE (email me if

Working Without A.NET

May is Money Magic Month!

Jon A. Hand

If you are a cardician, you might like these sites. If you are a magician who does some card work, you might like them even more.

<http://www.playing-cards.demon.co.uk>

This is a playing card specialty shop in the UK. They do mail-order. The most interesting things I found were in the regional card section by countries. Looking in the USA section, I found these:

1. Bicycle 404 (mini-cards) in red, blue, green
2. Bicycle LO-VISION cards with 4 COLORS of suits -- these should be big enough indices to be seen from

May 8th is the next meeting, and the chance for you to show your coin conjuring and dollar dexterity. Bring your quarters (state and otherwise), your paper bills, and your Sacagaweas to the American Legion Hall

the stage, like Jumbo Cards but with standard card size stock. The suits are red, black, green, and blue. If



you don't want the 4 colors of suits, I have seen the 2-color version of LO-VISION at Wal-Mart (NOT the same thing as Jumbo Indices).

3. Bicycle deck P750 -- in addition to the usual number of cards, this deck has an 11 and 12 of each suit, and a 13 of hearts and diamonds! Could be great fun for a closeup worker.

Hope you have fun with these!

<http://www.thehouseofcards.com>

This site has a list of major manufacturers and a neat history of playing cards.

<http://www.gunther.simplenet.com/cards/manuf.htm>

This site has a much more complete list of card manufacturers from around the world, including postal addresses and email addresses.

<http://www.usgames.com>

This, the second largest manufacturer of cards in the world, is an interesting site to poke around in. They have a nice reproduction of a U.S. Civil War deck for \$6.00 (great gift for a history buff or a C.W. re-enactor friend). They also have a deck with Union Army images on it, which is no good if you want the "authentic" C.W.-style deck, so be careful.

<http://www.ace-of-spades.com>

This, the largest manufacturer of playing cards in the world (Bicycle, Aviator, Bee) has no site whatsoever! You get a gray page implying they might eventually have a site. What a shame for all of us Bicycle users!

The Stand-Up Competition is Coming!

**Monday, June 12
On the Big Stage of the
American Legion Hall**

**All members in good standing
can compete for the title of
"Stand-Up Performer of the
Year."**

**If you wish to perform, just call
Dick Dale**



Upcoming Events

May 8 American Legion Hall- La mesa
Pre-Meeting: The A.C.E.S. at 6:30 pm
Meeting Theme: Money Magic
Board Meeting 5/22 at the home of
Julie Dale 7:00 pm

June 12 American Legion Hall- Large Room
Pre-Meeting: Election of Officers 6:30 pm
Meeting Theme: Stand-Up Competition
Board Meeting 6/28 at the home of

Richard Ustick 7:00 pm

Your Ring Needs You
The
Election for Board members is coming

July 10

Installation Banquet

soon. Your Ring
needs you and your talents
American Legion Hall- Large Room
for President,
Vice-President, Secretary,
Treasurer,
and Sergeant-at-Arms.
Put your name on the ballot today!

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