Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

San Diego, California

Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award



Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website www.ring76.com

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Our March meeting will feature silk magic. Everyone has several magic effects that produce, vanish, change color or tie and untie silk handkerchiefs. Get those tricks out and plan on presenting them at our meeting Monday evening.

We had J.P. Jackson all set up to present a special mini lecture on silk magic and J.P. was going to show off his beautiful collection of Rice Silks. But we are sad to report that J.P. was rushed to the Navy Hospital in late February where he underwent surgery. He is at home now recovering, but he will not be able to present his silk lecture. He promises that will happen at a later date.

In place of the mini lecture we have another surprise worked out for you. More on that at the meeting. In the meantime get out your Tarbell books or the Rice Silk Encyclopedia and work out a routine with silks. There is nothing prettier than a good silk routine.



Bob Inglies, our 1st Vice President in charge of entertainment, reminds everyone that we will be voting on performer of the year awards this month, so if you perform, your vote will go toward performer of the year status.

Our meetings start at 7 p.m. sharp each month, so don't be late. Any member who wants to perform at the bar before the meeting begins is welcome to do so. Some of the best magic of the month happens during the pre-meeting get togethers.

Ring 76 Beach Party & meeting in the planning stages

The Ring 76 board of directors is always looking ahead and attempting to make plans for special programs for our members. We are currently planning a beach party at Mission Bay on the grass for the August meeting.

We are currently looking at Sunday afternoon, August 14th, for this special meeting. It would be a late afternoon meeting. Though our planning is still in the earliest stages, we are also looking at serving hamburgers and hot dogs, soft drinks, and potato chips, and salad.

This meeting will be open to members and their families and their guests only and will include close-up magic. We might also have some carnival style games for children and prizes for the winners. If there are any members who would like to serve on this committee you will be welcome.

Contact Jack White, who is chairman of the planning committee for the August event. While this seems like it is a long way into the future, these things have a habit of sneaking up on us, so it is important that we make our plans now and have everything ready for this special Ring meeting.

If you have any ideas for making this a more exciting event, please let Jack know or, better still, become a member of this steering committee.

February 14th close-up contest draws large field of performers in an exciting event

The annual Ring 76 Close-up contest took up our meeting time in February. A good turnout of performers, as well as spectators, made for an exciting evening of magic. The winners of the contest will be announced at our Awards and Installation banquet in July. Each member of the audience and the performers themselves were allowed to vote for the winner.

Eight members took part in the contest, and we know that some changes have to be made for future close-up contests. Amateur and professional magicians should be judged separately. Next year we will have a time keeper at each table, and we will have a shotgun start so that tables do not have to wait for the next performer; one will always be ready to step in and go to work.

The contestants taking part this year included; Loch David Crane, Toni Perrine, Salomon Barajas, John London, Jim Thayer, Mago Ruly, Howard Harris, Diane Lane, Alex Greenbaum, Joe Mystic, Tom McCarthy, and Michael E. Johnson. Most of our contestants signed up the evening of the meeting. Our board of directors believes it would be better if contestants sign up the month before the close-up contest and we can print up a ballot for all of the contestants designating if they are a pro or an amateur status.

This year's contestants presented a wide array of close-up magic that ranged from cards, coins, and mentalism to comedy. Several of the contestants did not perform for all six of the tables. All that we talked with said it was a good experience and that they would do it again.

All of the performers seemed to enjoy going from table to table, presenting their magic performance, though it did mean doing the same act five and six times during the evening. One contestant told me she thought she improved as she moved from one table to another.

We thought we would let the pictures on this and the next page tell the story of this year's close-up magic contest.



Four top close-up pro's Tom McCarthy, Joe Mystic, Terry Lunceford & Michael E. Johnson



Bob Ingalls filling in between contestants



Howard Harris with a very clever mental routine that looks to be fooling Syd Siegel.



Jim Thayer and a surprised onlooker



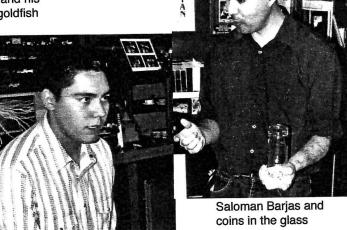
Mago Ruly and his appearing goldfish



Joe Mystic entertaining with his famous dollar bill exchange.



Tom McCarthy and a sensational coin trick





Loch David Crane and his Merlin the Magician act with midieval theme



John London

above: Toni
Perrine setting
up the story for
a card trick.

Michael E. Johnson with volunteer who is holding a coin in her hand

Ring 76 library is now open for business

At a recent board meeting Salomon Barajas volunteered to be the assistant Ring librarian working with Bob Pozner to bring our library in to usable working order for the loaning out of books, video-tapes and DVDs. The Ring 76 Library now has a very large selection of material that can be helpful to any working magician. The library is open for checking out materials 30-minutes following each meeting. You may keep the items you check out until the next meeting. See Bob Pozner or Salomon

Barajas to check out books and tapes.

For one of his first duties as assistant librarian, we asked Sal to write a few words about some of the tapes he thought were most desirable. You will find his thoughts on that subject below. This is your library; don't be afraid to use it.

The Magic Library Presents

Johhny Thompson's Commercial Classics of Magic Volumes 1-4

Here is an opportunity for people to see the great Johnny Thompson perform the classics of magic. He is truly a master of his art as you will see in his technical skill and performance style. The material contained in these tapes is made up of classic effects that have stood the test of time and performance and therefore can truly be deemed commercial. There is literally something for everybody: cards, coins, mentalism, silks, balls, birds etc. In my opinion this is probably the single best collection of magic available for magicians of all skill levels.

Volume 1: Balls & Net, Coins Through Table, Han Ping Chien Coin Trick, Winged Silver, Copper & Silver Transposition, Vanishing Glass, Benson'-s Bowl Routine, Matching The Cards & Automatic Aces.

Volume 2: The Travelers- Card In Envelope, Triumph, The Endless Chain, Vernon Poker Deal, Chink-A-Chink, The Cap& Pence & Mental Card Miracle. Volume 3: The Biddle Trick, Malini Card Stab,

Koran
Medallion,
Heads Up, Out
Of Sight Out Of
Mind, Phantom
Cigarette,
Hanky Panky,
Spell-Bound,
Presto Chango,
Coin In Bottle,
3 Ball Routine,
No Body
Livestock
Production.

Volume 4:Cups
And Balls,
Cutting The
Aces, Color
Changing
Knife, Color
Changing Deck
and an InDepth Interview With Michael Ammar.

JOHNNY THOMPSON

Commercial Classics of

A G I G

VOLUME

1

We also have other titles in our Video/DVD library and I highly recommend that our ring members take full advantage of this new service which was made possible by Bob Pozner.

Salomon A. Barajas, assistant to the Ring 76 Librarian.

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Michael Close Lecture in San Diego

Michael Close, the Las Vegas based magician and Magic Magazine columnist, presented a lecture for Ring 76 Monday evening, March 1st. Michael has always been on the cutting edge of progress and that was exemplified in his lecture. In addition to his live presentation, he offered important information through the use of Power Point on a giant screen set up next to the stage.

Close presented a series of excellent card tricks that he uses in his regular cocktail lounge shows at the Monte Carlo Casino in Las Vegas. He not only told us how he did his tricks but why he included these effects in his act.

One of the points that Close made in his lecture was to let your audience know who you are and a little bit about you. Do it through your story telling and your magic. He then gave several examples of how he does this with his act.

Michael Close has recently written and published through online printing a new book titled: "Closely Guarded Secrets." If printed out it would be 600 plus pages of material. He is currently selling his book on CD-Rom through several online book stores and at his lecture.

Dick Dale brought Michael Close to San Diego for this one night appearance. The night before Close appeared at the Trick Shop in Temecula for a lecture. Dick Dale is currently working to bring Richard Roth to San Diego for a lecture on coin magic. As soon as the details of that lecture are worked out we will let you know when and where it will be.



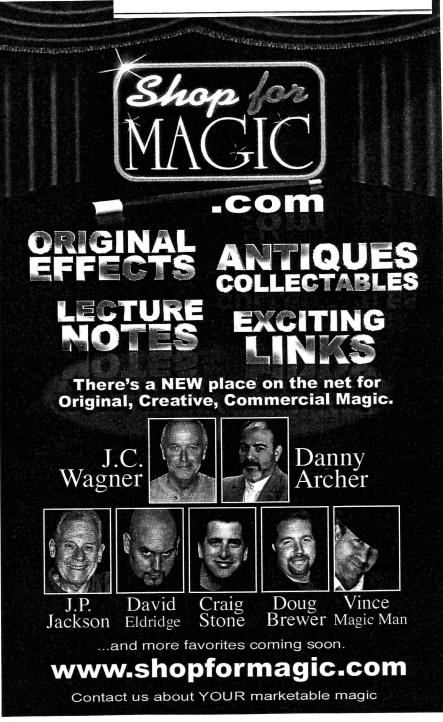
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Magician Loch Crane goes to school in Las Vegas to become a better performer

By Loch David Crane

(Las Vegas, NV) Dining room tables levitated above the stage; accurate predictions of the future were made; an escape artist was pulled through a two-inch hole into a small box. Two delicate butterflies pulled your chosen card from the deck upon command, and then returned to the Magician's hand. The Superbowl playoff was held, the Iraquis voted, and a coven of a dozen Magicians convened above the rain-soaked desert. For these necromantic nerds, it was more fun than chasing girls. Mask master and Guinness World Record holder Jeff McBride's Master Class, held in the Magic capital of the World, took a handful of upcoming Magicians to dizzying heights over the weekend.

Card tricks, coin tricks, mind reading, and stage illusions were practiced and perfected by mystical travelers from Brazil, Canada, Texas, Delaware. and San Diego. Let me introduce myself, my name is Loch David Crane, I am a San Diego native, and I attended the Master Class and polished my skills in prestidigitation, preparing for performances under the ghostly green clouds of Glitter Gulch, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The three days of workshops and seminars gave each wizard the opportunity to rehearse his or her developing illusions before a stellar faculty of awardwinning performers, stage professionals, and business consultants. Under their direction the male and female performers learned new illusions and magic effects, studied lighting and staging, learned business management to preserve the salaries they would charge, and developed new bits and techniques to add to their acts back home.

The powerful faculty is headed by Jeff McBride, world famous sleight-of-hand artist and grand illusionist with over two dozen titles, awards, and competitive victories to impart to his students at the only Magic School in Las Vegas. Eugene Burger, bulky bearded mind reader, shared subtleties and methods of entertaining people using the powers of the human mind. Touring and stage manager Tobias Beckwith told students how to manage lighting, sound, and basic business practices to enhance their careers. Even the Hollywood Magic Castle's Magician of the year, back country conjurer Mac King, was present to enchant and inform with appropriate anecdotes to the students' questions.

The secret meetings were held within a huge fabric

Wonder Dome, an inflatable building filled with the dark arts, drums and percussion instruments, the smell of incense, and lit from within with a star map and psychedelic moving pictures. Conversations went on in English and Portugese, and whatever it is that the Canadians speak. Some magicians



Loch David Crane

brought noble wives and

nubile assistants, one brought his father for supportbut most of them, whether shaved bald or with hair like Doug

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Terry Lunceford

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Continued from page 6

Henning, drove in alone from states as far away as Delaware to partake of the wonders and oneness of the enchanting Las Vegas Mystery School.

I attended the school to get reaction to a new act I am breaking in. It is a less controversial character: "Merlin-ye-Mage." After performing a dozen years as "Bafflin Bill Cody," I found the cowboy image is not as popular as it once was worldwide.

The once popular western heroes of stage and screen like Clint Eastwood are all fifty years or older; and even sunny San Diego has suffered more school shooting incidents than any other American city. Every city school now has a zero-tolerance policy, preventing even an entertainer from firing a blank gun or stabbing the deck with a jawbone-handled knife to find your selected card. Getting the knife, gun, saber, and other weird props thru the airports is also more difficult these days. And any untrained parent who thinks a child might be scared by drama and big props can complain to the school principal—and the show is not only cancelled, but forbidden to perform for all the city schools in the future.

So a cleaner, less controversial character was needed. "Merlin ye Mage" was created to tap into the European universal stereotypes about knights, damsels in distress, and exotic medieval weapons. The Harry Potter tsunami of exciting reading for kids also helped raise public consciousness of medieval and wizardly activities worldwide. And most emigrating Americans came from lands with kings, castles, and intermarriage. Merlin is a darker, more mysterious and unnerving character than the affable cowboy; the drama is stronger, the tricks are bigger, and Professor McBride notes "the props and costume have an astonishing attention to detail" which makes the act "Awesome!"

Loch David Crane Says:

Thank You

for your support during his recent illness and troubled times.

Ring 76 magic swap meet set for April 11th

The annual Ring 76 magic swap meet is open to all members and their guests. If you would like to be a seller the club sells table space for \$10 for a 6-foot table. We will also be selling half tables for those who have just a few items to sell. A half table is \$5.

This is a very popular evening for our members and as many of you know last year's swap meet was a sellout. So that you are not disappointed, we suggest that you make your reservation for a table soon. Richard Ustick, the Ring treasurer, is in charge of the swap meet planning and leasing the tables. His e-mail address is rustic@flash.net or you can contact him at the March meeting.

We want to remind our members that this is only a swap meet; there will not be an auction during this event. Doors will open to sellers at 4:30 pm so you can set up your tables. Doors will open to the general membership and their guests at 6:30 pm. Planning is very important for this event so don't wait until the last minute to take care of details.

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



Magic Notes from



World Magic Seminar & other magic conventions

The World Magic Seminar was held February 20th to the 23rd at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas and as usual this event drew a large number of San Diego magicians to its lectures, shows and dealers room. Tom LaChance, Bob Ingalls, Ralph Mauzy, Don and Donna Soul, Dick and Julie Dale, Len Cardoza, Joe Mystic, Kenny Shelton, Diane Lane and I all were in attendance.

The highlight and perhaps the most emotional part of this year's seminar was an on stage appearance of Roy Horn. At last year's seminar Siegfried announced that in 2005 Roy would be at his side on stage. It happened and he received a standing ovation. He stood with Siegfried on stage for a few minutes and then took a few steps before asking for his wheel chair. Roy is still a very sick man, but he is continuing to recover from his injuries and is making very good progress. His appearance did have a shocking realism as to how bad he was injured in the incident with the tiger a year and a half ago.

The schedule was a little different this year with most of the morning lecturers not beginning until 11 a.m. In years past the first lecture would start at 9 a.m. The new schedule allowed people to stay up late and party and still make it to the first event of the day on time. With the morning events pushed back a couple of hours there were more events in the late afternoon and several late evening programs.

The Close-up demonstration featured Carl Andrews, Vanni Bossi, Glenn Farrington, Nathan Gibson, who

won the IBM Close-up competition last year in Cleveland, Mickey Silver and Lennart Green. This was a very fast paced program and with this kind of talent there was some excellent close-up work. The best part - much of the close-up was without cards.



The zany Bob Sheets

The next evening there was a late evening Cabaret show featuring San Diego's own Bob Sheets,
Johnny Fox and Docc Hilford. I don't know how long this show was scheduled to last but it was two hours long and the audience would have stayed even longer if the performers would have continued to work. Johnny Fox worked with Bob Sheets in a restaurant in Aspen and they have been friends for years. Johnny is a lover of circus sideshow entertainment and he did some sword swallowing and other offbeat style magic.

Docc Hilford has a powerful voice and he knows how to use it for dramatic effect. He told a ghost story and used the card stab with a long sword that was most effective. He also presented a very nice interlude of mentalism that in his hands was most effective.

Bob Sheets was at his best for this show. He presented his numbered blocks that change and turn around and do all kinds of wonderful things. He of course did the three shells and the little pea and got



In the dealers room Joe Mystic, Pren Taylor, from Orange County and Jack White do a card trick

a standing ovation. It was an exciting show that I almost missed and am very happy I stayed up late to take it in.

The dealers room was a very big one this year and offered a lot of magic for sale. If you are a collector you should have been in heaven; there were three complete sets of the Albo books and all three dealers were ready to sharpen their pencil to make a deal. The hottest new trick that everyone seemed to have was a packet trick with two cards called "Melted:" one card melts through the other. It was



Magician comic Jeff Hobson, Billy McComb and Penn Juelette

the best \$15-dollars you could spend at the convention.

This is the first year for this event at the Orleans Hotel & Casino, which is about a half mile off the Vegas Strip. This hotel was the home for the MagicLive Conference in August and they know how



Ralph Mauzy, Bob Ingalls and Len Cardoza, all San Diego Magi

care of a group of magi. Everything was kept in a small area; lecture rooms, dealer's room and registration were all

to take

within easy walking distance. The main show room was not far away and that is where the big afternoon shows were held. This was a well-planned and staged convention by Rich Block and Bill Wells. I will go back again next year.

While I am on the subject of magic conventions I just received my March issue of Magic Magazine and in it they list all of the magic conventions for 2005. By my count there will be 46-major magic events somewhere in the United States between now and next January 1st. it is mind boggling the number of magic conventions, gathering and seminars that are being held around the country. Some are one and two-day events and some are full four - and - five-day magic conventions.

That brings me to the IBM Convention in Reno, Nevada, June 28th, to July 2nd. As many of you already know, because Reno does not have an IBM Ring, Mel Kientz, the convention chairperson, has asked various members of Rings in California and Arizona, to help out as part of this year's convention planning committee. Bob Ingalls, Don Soul and I have been invited to serve on the committee.

The three of us have already met with the rest of the committee in Reno, and this year's IBM Convention is shaping up to be one of the best ever staged. Everything will take place in one location, the Hilton Hotel & Casino, except for one surprise event I will tell you about in a moment. The Reno Hilton is located less than a mile from the Reno Airport so the cab ride will not cost you an arm and a leg.

The Reno Hilton has dozens of restaurants to fit every budget, so you don't have to leave the hotel to find food. Like the World Magic Seminar, all of the lectures, contests and the dealer's room for the IBM Convention will be held in one area of the hotel, making it easy for those who have trouble moving around. The main show room at the hotel, which hosts the largest and most modern stage in the United States, will be ours for four nights of magic shows. By the way, the seating in this showroom is fantastic.

One of the great highlights of this year's convention will be a bus trip to one of the most exciting magic venues going: Mark & Jinger Kalin's Underground Magic Theater & Museum. The Kalins opened this new and exciting all in one magic enterprise late last year and they are offering it at no extra charge to everyone registered at the IBM Convention. The buses that transport us to the underground theater will also give us a little tour of the historic and shopping sites in Reno, another bonus of this convention.

There is a reason for my telling you about all of this at this time. That is because they are limiting the number of registrations this year at the IBM Convention to 1200. Roger Wicks, the man in charge of registration, tells me things are filling up fast for this summer's exciting event. If you are planning on attending this convention and have not registered I would do so soon. Roger Wicks Email address is ibmreno2005@yahoo.com.

Message from the President



Fellow Ring 76 members,

Spring is in the air and for folks who have spent time around the circus, these are the days when old-time showman would begin painting and repairing their props, prop cases and all of the paraphernalia that goes with putting on a show and hitting the road for the long season ahead.

All of that might be a bit drastic for many members of our Ring, but this is the time of year we all start preparing for more magic show activity. With that in mind, I want to remind all of our members that next month we have our annual magic swap meet. It's a time when we all get together and get rid of the tricks we have not performed in years and look at someone else's magic to see if we can make a routine out of it and of course get a deal, price-wise at the same time.

I have never understood why some other guy's magic always looks so much better than mine. It not too soon to begin getting your old props, books and videotapes out and putting a price on them for the swap meet. There is a story elsewhere in this newsletter with more details on getting a table for this annual event. You might want to look for it.

I, like so many other San Diego magi, was able to attend the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas, last month. I was able to have some time for a one-on-one conversation with Jeff McBride. We talked about the presentation of a good magic routine. Also in

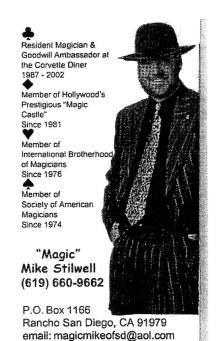
this issue of MagiCurrents you will find an article by Loch David Crane and his experience attending Jeff McBride's classes. Take the time to read the article; I think you will find it very interesting.

We want to continue our brief little teach-ins that in the past year have become an important part of our pre-meetings. If we have a few good magicians who want to take part during the next several months in the teach-in, please let me know so I can schedule your appearance.

Last I want to give a tip of the top hat to Howard Harris who is doing an outstanding job as our new Ring Webmaster. Keep up the good work Howard, the site looks great. You can help keep our Website looking fresh by sending magic photo's and stories to Howard Harris at www.ring76.com.

I have to run and practice my silk routine for Monday night's meeting. See ya then.

Diane Lane President, Ring 76



Ring 76



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News

Phil King, who is now living in Missouri but is still a member of Ring 76, tells us he had quadruple bypass open-heart surgery on January 27th. He says there was no damage to the heart muscle because his problems were discovered before he had a heart attack. Phil and his wife had planned to be in San Diego, visiting family during February and March, but he is not planning at trip west now until at least next fall or winter. We all send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Former Ring 76 performer of the year Bryan McDaniel is on his way to Iraq and will be there for the next year or so. A retired U.S. Marine, Bryan will be embedded with the U.S. Army at Camp Victory in Iraq, as a security technician. Bryan will be helping the Army train Iraq security forces so our people can one day come home. He says he will of course be taking his many decks of cards, sponge balls, thumb tips, silks, cups and balls and whatever else space will allow. He knows he will find an audience or two that is willing to sit through one of his performances. He has promised to send us updates on his life working for SAIC at Camp Victory. Good Luck, Bryan, and we will look forward to your return to San Diego.

J.P. Jackson spent two weeks in Navy Hospital with stomach problems. Doctors operated and believe they have taken care of all troubled areas. By the time you read this J.P. should be back home and recuperating from his medical ordeal. He will not be well enough to present his lecture as planned at our next meeting on



Rice Silks. We will save that for a future meeting. Meanwhile, he is making plans to attend the Magic Collectors Weekend in Las Vegas April 7, 8, & 9. That event will include a tour of David Copperfield's famed Vegas Magic Museum.

Sebastian, has been living and working in Los Angeles since before the first of the year. He worked for Doug Malloy's Modern Magic and helped with the marketing of Malloy's new "Master Prediction System." Sebastian has moved back to San Diego and is currently attending Bartending School and hopes to go to work as a "magic bartender." To make ends meet while he is going to Bartending School, he is working for his father and producing video presentations for trade shows.

Joel Ward will be breaking in a new magic act at the Magic Castle's Palace of Mystery March 14th to the 20th, and he invites all of his San Diego friends to come and see the show at the Castle. If you are not a member of the Magic Castle you can attend as a guest of Joel's. Call the Castle at (323) 851-3313, when they answer immediately push 0 for the operator. Then tell the operator you are guests of Joel Ward. Membership Number 90178, and you are in, you will have to pay for dinner at the Magic Castle, but Joel will take care of the rest,

Briefs

including getting you into his show.

Terry Godfrey tells MagiCurrents that he has his summer booked at Fairs all over the Western United States. He begins with some small fairs here in Southern California later this month. Terry's show in Victorville was a huge success, next time you see Terry ask him to tell you about it.

Todd Reis, President of Ring 313 in Orange County, tells us they will hold their annual magic swap meet Tuesday, March 29th. Ring 76 members are welcome to attend and purchase. If you would like to sell at that meet, tables are \$10. To reserve a table Email Ed Groleau at magicmred@cox.net. Doors at the swap meet open at 7 p.m. Ed can also give you directions to the Irvine location where that Ring meets.

Michael E. Johnson, has been working hard doing shows in San Diego County this past month but he also found time to fill a date at a trade show in Dallas, Texas. It is interesting how he got that gig. Last year a couple of medical research workers were visiting San Diego; they enjoy magic and are members of the IBM; they found our meeting and were guests. They saw Michael perform at that meeting and were so impressed they had their company book him for their trade show booth. Way to go, Michael.

Coming Attractions

March 14th meeting Silk Magic Night! Members will present a favorite routine or trick with silks. Dust off your silk act and get it ready to present at Monday nights program. This will be a fun meeting.

April 11th, Ring 76 Magic Swap Meet, get your stuff ready! See Richard Ustick if you want a table or half table for the swap meet. This is a great time to get rid of that magic you never use and to find some new tricks to experiment with.

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, March 21st. at Jack's Magic Place at 7 p.m. sharp. These business meetings are open to all members interested in attending.

Classified Advertising

For Sale: "Sword Basket" flaming and regular swords, basket in very good condition and specially made. Heavy-duty ATV cases included for storage and shipping. This is a professional outfit. \$800.00 Interested parties call Diane Lane at 619-203-9986.

For Sale: "Johnson Coin Casket" A borrowed marked quarter vanishes from a clear drinking glass and appears in a brass ring box. Machined from a solid brass bar in the usual Johnson high quality style. Top of the ring box is opened by the spectator and requires many turns to unscrew. A close-up ma miracle and long off the market and now becoming hard to find. Like-new condition. \$65.00 Call J.P. Jackson if interested. 858-569-0096.

For Sale: "Remote Controlled Nut & Bolt Phenomenon with close up case." This is without a doubt the best close-up item on the market today. A nut is threaded onto a bolt and visibly it unthreads itself! These units are getting hard to find. Jack White has one that has never been used. They are selling at the online shops for \$175. Ours is for sale for \$110. Call Jack at 619-299-9037.

MagiCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76 and is edited by Jack White; Associate Editor is Jim Riley. We encourage articles, stories, and news items. All material should be submitted to Jack White by e-mail at prestoone@cox.net. or written manuscripts may be submitted to Jack White, 4288 Arguello St., San Diego, CA. 92103.