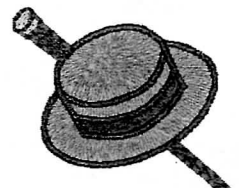


Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



# MagiCurrents

San Diego, California



Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award

Honest Sid Gerhart  
Ring 76

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website  
[www.ring76.com](http://www.ring76.com)

Volume XXI 9 September 2007

## September 10th meeting to feature food & liquid

Our September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be very special.

Following our regular brief business meeting that will include a vote on the change in our constitution and bylaws to allow our immediate past president to serve as a member at large, we will have a mini-lecture by President Terry Lunceford on what to do when a prop does not work or when something goes wrong in your act. Terry says he has dozens of horror stories from his own act and from friends who are professional magicians. He has learned some outs for such a situation that can help all of us.

Following Terry's mini-lecture we will allow any of our members that would like to perform an opportunity to do so. The theme for this month's magic will be tricks with food or liquids. This will be a chance for you to dust off your Foo Cans, gimmicked Funnels, Lota Bowls, Rice Bowls, Multum in Parvo, Ink Bottle & Potato trick, Milk Pitcher, Cake in Hat, Indestructible Eggs, and any other tricks that feature liquids or food.

The idea is to have fun with your magic and create some new routines with some of your older or more familiar props that don't get that much use. In a recent conversation at the *MagicLive* Convention in Las Vegas, a group of magicians were talking about the importance of rediscovering some of the older props in your arsenal of magic effects and getting them out and putting them to use.

Terry Lunceford has some important words about timing in your magic act in this month's Message from the President. It is worth your time to take a quick look at that column.

We should also remind you that our October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the Big Tent in the parking lot of the Del Mar Fair grounds. In addition to our regular meeting we will have an opportunity to perform for those visiting the Pumpkin Patch. We will have more information in next month's MagiCurrents newsletter.

## Lectures planned for September

Magic entertainers will be offered a "free" to members lecture on Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup>, and a special moderately priced "Christmas Magic Workshop" on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Along with a sensational close-up lecture Monday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. These programs will truly offer material that can help performers in every category of magic being presented today.

On Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, John Fedko will present the best of the 13 different lectures he has presented in the past 31 years at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. This lecture will contain the best of his close-up, mental, and stage magic. All of the magic effects in this lecture can be performed with ordinary materials and will not require special magic apparatus. John is an excellent magician and understands the value of being able to do outstanding magic with everyday objects.

The lecture notes that John offers will contain everything he explains during the lecture. Following the lecture, John will have a short dealer's show featuring his latest commercial magic that is available. John is retiring from manufacturing his world famous instructional magic videos and will have a 70% to 90% video discount at this lecture. This is going to be John Fedko's farewell magic lecture tour.

The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 11, at Jack's Magic Place. This is a free lecture, for Ring 76 members, others will pay \$15 at the door, seating is open for this lecture so we encourage you to arrive early and reserve a good seat. You will definitely learn some new magic that you can put into your fall and holiday magic shows.

On Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 8 p.m. David Ginn and Steve Harmer will present their special "Christmas Magic Workshop;" this will be only one of five such

Story continued on page 5

## August favorite trick night brings out a dozen contestants and large summertime crowd

The August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of Ring 76 was well attended on a very warm summer evening. The theme for the evening was "Favorite Trick Night." President Terry Lunceford called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. sharp. There were a number of announcements made by various members. Kenny Shelton, our 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, could not attend so Bob Ingalls took over as the program chair and presented the acts.

Leading off the program was Craig Stone doing a very fast routine with four silver dollars. Craig is a professional magician and has had years of practice with this routine in restaurants and other venues where he works. His smooth style at the beginning of the evening put the rest of the performers on notice to be on their toes and keep their act moving.

Another longtime pro, Bob Elliott, was next with a very nice stand up card routine that was a little bit like the old Abbotts "Attaboy" routine without any props except a deck of cards and a spectator from the audience. Bob is always entertaining and slips a few asides into his work that bring some unexpected laughs. Tom McCarthy is yet another professional performer with more solid material on this favorite trick night. Tom did a very, very nice "3 Card Monte" standing up with his back to the audience and holding the cards over his head. This was yet another very strong professional presentation.

Gary Dismukes has been a loyal member of Ring 76 for more than 30 years and has always presented strong material. This evening he presented two very nicely routined effects out of his children's show and they were both original and real foolers with props that Gary has crafted himself. Gary's act was a nice change of pace in the program and was a good lead in for Charlie Gott, another veteran Ring member, who presented some gospel magic that left everyone with a smile on their face.

Jack White pulled one of his antique magic items off the shelf; it was a Jumbo Val Evans Card Rise. There were only a handful of these Jumbo Card Rise props ever built, and Jack gave us a little history on the prop itself and the man who made it; then Jack presented a routine that was a little out of the ordinary for a rising card effect.

Don Soul was next with a very original card routine that included a little device Don purchased that afternoon at Office Depot. The device shows the veins in Don's arm, and when this device gets to his wrist, the name of a selected card suddenly glows brightly, looking like Don's

veins are forming the letters of the selected card. Don read about the trick in a magic magazine and decided to try it and made it a hit of the evening.

From Mexico, Mago Ruly, presented a very clever trick with a string that tied itself into loops with the action, playing very nicely to music. Mago Ruly speaks only a little English, so he always features the appropriate music with his magic acts and, as usual, came out with a very clever little performance. Territorial Vice President Jeff Marcus, another professional entertainer, presented an original and very clever routine that involved mental magic, comedy and some clever props to be used by a volunteer from the audience. Jeff's years of experience at handling people from the audience shown through brightly during this effect with a volunteer.

Joe Mystic, another professional performer, had a small Merv Taylor Foo Can and three Styrofoam cups and put together four minutes of solid comedy magic. Joe is one of those folks who can take nothing and turn it into a miracle. Joe Mystic also recently donated a new public address system to Ring 76 for its events was very much in use during this meeting.

Alex Greenbaum, one of our younger members, getting ready for his freshman year at U.C. Irvine, treated us to a different kind of card trick that had the selected card hidden in a glass inside a brightly colored paper bag that was selected by a member of the audience. An original and clever routine from Alex who has made great advances with his magic this year. Toni Perrine, who is a senior citizen but thinks she is 24, was on next with a series of rope effects; she was wearing some of the ropes around her neck and others came out of a neat little wooden box she was carrying. She ended with a very different "Professor's Nightmare" routine in a high-energy performance.

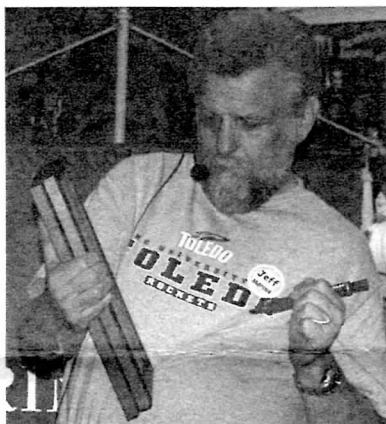
Michael E. Johnson is one of the busiest performers in San Diego County, doing four and five children's shows a day on the weekends. Michael did a delightful comedy escape routine with two volunteers out of the audience who chained him up. Michael is a good showman and is always smiling and that sells his act, every time. Michael's would have been the closing act but Dr. Jeff Pearson said he had something he wanted to show our audience. What everyone thought was going to be a card trick turned out to be a very nice color changing knife routine.

*(continued next page)*

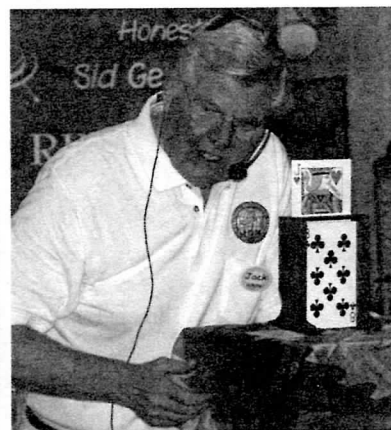
After the show many members stayed around to talk and exchange information on magic, still others journeyed a block down the street to Denny's Coffee Shop that was air conditioned, for more magic at the tables. As one member put it, "There was some cool magic on a very warm evening."



**Tom McCarthy**



**Jeff Marcus**



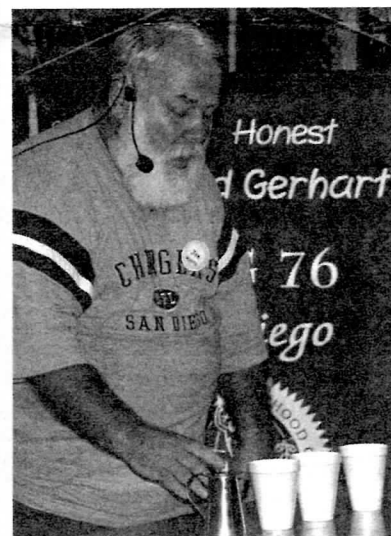
**Jack White**



**Michael E. Johnson**



**Vi Freeland assists Bob Elliott**



**Joe Mystic**



**Bottom Row: Michael E. Johnson, Bob Elliott, Craig Stone, Tom McCarthy, Charlie Gott, Jeff Marcus  
Back Row: Dr. Jeff Pearson, Joe Mystic, Gary Dismukes, Toni Perrine, Don Soul, Alex Greenbaum, Mago Ruly**



# A new magic online journal is something every magician should experience

By Dr. Jeff Pearson

By accident I found something online called "Reel Magic Quarterly Review." This is the way of the future for receiving a magic magazine; there is a charge for this online publication that is more than just text and pictures. I have written a review of this new magic adventure and it appears on several Websites. However, Jack White asked me to share it with the members of Ring 76, so here goes.

Read through the previous posts and you'll observe that many of the writers have begun with this very same exclamation. However, this is the true gut reaction to sitting down and watching this marvelously produced video magazine. Watching John Lovick demonstrate his devilishly clever and simple \$100 bill switch in the first segment elicits the first of many spontaneous "wows."

Intending to only watch a segment or two, I wound up sitting through the entire two hours and was disappointed that it seemingly ended so soon. As an amateur magician ("Amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic" - Bob Elliott), I found every subject practical and in just the right amount of depth. Practical meaty stuff. The video quality is excellent with great camera angles when tricks are explained.

The commercials weren't burdensome - most were entertaining and showed a demo of a particular trick (Penguin and others). I'm sure that these are what keep the price of this incredible production so low and "cost effective" (as opposed to "cheap"). I do wish that they'd get rid of the one or two that concentrated on crowd reactions to an effect (rather than demonstrating a trick) or at least limit them to just 1-2 reaction shots - watching a full minute or two (seemed longer) of just reaction shots got old fast.

Three tricks were performed and later explained in detail: John Lovick's bill switch, Dan Tong's Chop Cup routine, and Potassy's bill-to-potato, the latter two taken from the videos that these magicians had recently put out. The quality of each video is perfect and provided an opportunity to watch masters from the comfort of my sofa.

The interviews with Paul Harris and Harry Lorayne provided insight as to where they came from and their philosophies. (The Harris piece is a particularly nice complement to the recent Eric Mead article in Magic.)

The reviews of DVD's and tricks by David Regal and Wayne Kawamoto were thorough and informative. It's nice to see video of an effect interspersed within the body of the review - you can't get that with print publications. And last, but not least, Garrett Thomas' "Try this at home" is a winner for us amateurs. I'm looking forward to picking up more practical tips in the future.

My only gripe is that I'll only receive these videos on a quarterly basis. I don't know if the business model would support 12 issues (or even 6-8 per year) - I'd put up with a few more commercials if they could do this. Of course, I recognize that the primary magicians involved may not have the time to do this (or perhaps there might be concerns about diluting the quality by putting out too much material?). And so apparently, I'll have to depend upon The Lecture Network to fill my video addiction between Reel Magic episodes...

Bottom line: this appears to be the start of a great magic series. I'm a family physician and I employed Lovick's bill switch and Paul Harris' philosophy to some of my other effects as I went exam-tablehopping throughout my office hours today. (And, yes Paul, they were astonished!) I HIGHLY recommend this series.

## More Pictures from the August meeting!



Gary Dismukes

## Lecture Series Continued

workshops on the west coast. Now is the time to start planning for those holiday bookings, and David has put together a program that will help you with everything you need to know to be a successful holiday performer. This workshop is designed for magicians, clowns, ventriloquists, and other variety entertainers. Start planning now for the lucrative holiday party season ahead.

Each registrant will receive a free copy of David Ginn's new Christmas Magic Workbook, filled with over 50 pages of routines, ideas, and ways to work Christmas party shows. This book is not for sale at magic shops or via the Internet. A selection of Christmas magic props, books and DVDs will be on sale at special prices. David will accept checks, cash, and credit cards. Because this will be one of the only Southern California appearances for this daylong workshop, we are expecting a large turn out, so we suggest you make reservations in advance for this one-of-a-kind event.

The cost is \$35 for advance reservations \$45 at the door. Your spouse is free with your paid admission. Junior magicians are \$35, with one parent free. You can e-mail registrations with credit card to: [david@ginnmagic.com](mailto:david@ginnmagic.com). The workshop will be held at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. If you can't reach David, you can e-mail your reservation to Jack White at [prestooone@cox.net](mailto:prestooone@cox.net). There will be a one-hour evening break in the workshop for dinner.

If you want to jump-start your holiday season with new material and new ideas for booking your attraction, then don't miss this afternoon and evening workshop for Christmas magic shows, this is one of the few opportunities to attend this program on the west coast.

On Monday evening, September 24th, Syd Segal will present Kostya Kimlat's brand new lecture that has been receiving rave reviews across the country. San Diego, will be his only west-coast appearance before taking off for

a month-long European lecture tour. His material ranges from the "that is so simple, why didn't I think of that?" to the "oh-my-god, that is really worth my time to master!" Contact Syd Segal at [btl6380@aol.com](mailto:btl6380@aol.com) for advance tickets.



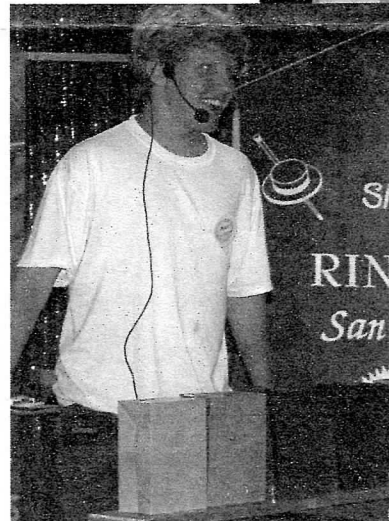
## More Pictures from the August meeting!



Jeff Pearson



Toni Perrine



Alex Greenbaum

## "MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman





## Message from the Ring 76 President

Lynn and I were able to get away for a little vacation in August and now we are back and ready to move forward as we transition into the fall of the year. Our September meeting is shaping up to be very different and I expect to see some exciting and clever magic. Coming out of the dog days of summer always finds it difficult to get motivated for the important months ahead when bookings for magicians become more plentiful. That said, we have some very good lectures coming up in the next few weeks to help recharge our magic batteries. You will note that the Ring is making the John Fedko lecture the evening following our regular meeting a "free" lecture to all Ring 76 members. John is a great teacher and I believe everyone will find something they can use in his lecture.

While we are on the subject of improving our magic programs, I would like to say a few things about timing your act. No, I don't mean how long your act runs. I'm talking about making your act flow smoothly. It's one of the major things that set professionals apart from the amateurs.

Take the time to videotape your act. If you can't video for some reason or other, ask a friend to watch the act

and make notes. Tell them to be merciless. There's no room for ego here.

Go through your patter and look for stutters and stammers. Write down what you should have said for each section and trick in the program. One of the worst things you can do is look like you lost your train of thought during a performance (unless it's on purpose.)

Write down your patter so it's easier to memorize. Be careful not to become so rigid in your memorization that it becomes rote.

The transition from one trick to another is probably the most important and the most ignored piece of timing. Find a way to make each transition flow smoothly.

Timing becomes most important in silent acts. Timing your act to the music is a good thing. However, remember the music is there to augment your act not overpower it.

Just as it is important not to stutter with your speech, it is also important not to hesitate with your actions. If you find yourself ahead of the music, don't wait for it to catch up. Let me say that again. It's more important to not stutter with your actions. Make sure you take all unnecessary movements out and know where you and your hands need to be at all times. This is very important!

Obviously this subject is far too complex to cover in the few lines I have in this column. What I offer here is a starting point for you to think about. If you would like to discuss this subject in more detail or discuss specifics of your act, let me know because I will only be too pleased to help.

I will have a few more things to say about becoming better performers at our next meeting.

*Terry Lunceford*  
President Ring 76



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\*denotes Past Ring President

For information on membership or Ring events, contact Jack White, Ring 76 Secretary by e-mail [prestooone@cox.net](mailto:prestooone@cox.net) or by phone at 619-299-9037

## News

The August issue of the IBM's Linking Ring magazine has a nice story about **Bob Sheets** in 1969, in San Diego, when Sheets joined the Big John Strong Circus. The story appears on page 76 as **Bev Bergeron's** "Cutting Up Jackpots" column in the magazine. If you are a Bob Sheets fan or a circus fan you will enjoy reading this column. By the way, some of the Ring 76 members who attended the opening night of that circus in 1969, included **J.C. Wagner, Jack White, George Edwards, Vincent Gaddis, Will & Jane Staar, and Harold Ellis.**

In August a number of San Diegans and Ring 76 members attended the MagicLive Convention at the Orleans Hotel and Casino, in Las Vegas. Those attending included: **Bob Ingalls, Jack White, Kenny Shelton, Greg Wauson, Diane Lane, Sherry Luft, Jeff Marcus, Joel & Arlene Moskowitz, Belinda Kaesler, Randy Kappe, Michael Feldman, Dick & Julie Dale, Toni Perrine, Tom LaChance, and J.C. Wagner.** All seem to agree it was an excellent convention, but not quite up to the standards set by the first two MagicLive events. Some comments were about lectures that were a little too long, along with speakers that were sometimes difficult to understand and teaching sessions that included details that were clearly explained in the lecture notes that were handed out free at the end of each session. On a positive note: lots of top talent, great parlor show with the **Flicking Fingers** group from Germany, very well staged close-up show and the closing night stage show was one of the best magic shows ever produced according to some comments overheard by people leaving the theater. **Stan Allen,** Editor and Publisher of Magic Magazine said he will do two more MagicLive Conventions, the next one in 3 years and the last in 6 years.



On a sad note, we learned in late August that **George Cagni**, a longtime North County schoolteacher at the Camp Pendleton school district, had died of cancer. Cagni used magic as a teaching aid in his classrooms for many years, much of his magic apparatus and books have been donated to Ring 76, for future swap meets and magic auctions. George Cagni grew up in Nebraska, and was interested in magic since he was a young boy; magic was a means of income during his college years, and he began using magic in his classrooms early on in his teaching career. Shortly after he retired from teaching in 2005, he was diagnosed with lung and stomach cancer. He was 68 years old.

We also learned in late August, that **Jerry Andrus**, who was most famous for his creation of the Linking Safety Pins, had died. He also developed a number of other magic effects, as well as producing some startling three-dimensional optical illusions and perceptual effects. An interesting aspect of his magic is that Andrus never said anything in his presentations that was not true, preferring to deceive the spectators by visual means alone. Andrus had been in poor health for sometime and earlier this year there were premature reports of his death. At this writing his exact age is not known.

**Diane Lane** is very excited these days: her granddaughter, **Samantha,**

## Briefs

is being featured on the cover of "Family Magazine" for the month of September. The magazine is currently on newsstands. This has become a tradition with Diane's family; her son was featured on the cover of the same magazine 15 years ago as the youngest professional working clown in San Diego.

Ring 76 member **Don Holcomb's** wife **Elizabeth** is having a successful recovery following knee surgery earlier in August. Everyone at Ring 76 sends best wishes.

**Bob Ingalls** tells us that FISM winner **Jason Latimer** is just winding up a 16-week tour on a Holland-America Cruise Ship. Jason has been making the tour of Alaska; he says he only does one show a week and has had full run of the ship's various machine shops and has used that time to create new props for his act. He is currently putting a show together for a casino showroom venue.

Cartoonist/Magician **Jim Whiting**, spent several days in the hospital during August, he says the doctors gave him every test they could think of and could not find anything wrong with him other than what they have been treating him for during the past seven years. *That is the best news we have received in a longtime from a member in the hospital.*

Many Ring 76 members know **Ron London** from Indiana, an excellent magician working all over the country, and who a couple of years ago lectured for our Ring. In late July he suffered a heart attack, kidney failure and fluid in his lungs. He spent all of August in a hospital and rest home. He is now back at home and says he is feeling better, but the recovery process is expected to take a longtime.



## Coming Attractions

**Monday, September 10th, 7 p.m. Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Mini-lecture on "What to do when a trick goes wrong." Also you can perform a trick with food or liquid.**

**Monday, October 8th, Halloween meeting & Show at the Del Mar Fair Grounds.**

### The One-Time Only—West Coast USA Tour! Christmas Magic Workshop

Starring Magician/Author

**David Ginn**

With Special Guest

**Steve Harmer**



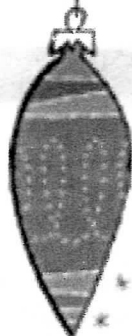
An all-day event featuring FOUR HOURS of FUN and FUNNY education about working Christmas Party Shows as a magician or clown. You'll learn NEW TRICKS and COMEDY ROUTINES perfect for your holiday parties, whether secular or church programs ... plus the TEN MOST IMPORTANT THINGS about working Christmas shows! You'll experience a complete Christmas show performed by one of David's friends, plus lots of never-shown kidshow magic presented by DAVID GINN himself. David Ginn books, DVDs and props will be on sale at reasonable prices, and each attendee will receive David's Christmas Magic Lecture Book ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Remember, this event will NEVER appear in your area again! If you do Christmas shows for fun or profit, make it a point to be there! \$35 advance or \$45 at the door.

Date: **Sunday, Sept. 16** City, Location: **San Diego**

Time: **2 to 8 p.m.**

Sponsor: **Jack's Magic Place**



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 [prestooone@cox.net](mailto:prestooone@cox.net). or written manuscripts may be submitted to Jack White, 4288 Arguello St., San Diego, CA. 92103.