



MagiCurrents



San Diego, California

Celebrating Sixty Years of Service to the Magic Community

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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January Teach-in Ready to Go Close-Up Competition Looms

This year's teach-in January 12th promises to be one of the best we've ever presented. Get a load of these instructors:

Loch David Crane
Dr. Jeff Pearson
Syd Segal
Tom McCarthy
Michael E. Johnson
Steven Youell

Each of the volunteer teachers for the evening have extensive knowledge of professional magic skills as well as years of instructive proficiency. This is a golden opportunity to pick the brains of six expert magicians.



Our instructors from the 2008 Teach-in: left to right Dr. Jeff Pearson, Bob Elliott, Greg Wauson, Brad Burt and Craig Stone

This annual event is always valuable to those who wish to improve their magic and with the caliber of talent at our disposal this year you won't be disappointed. It's always wise to bring a deck of cards with you to these teach-ins but our crew will provide the necessary props you'll need to perform the many tricks you will learn if you forget.

It all happens at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue in City Heights, five blocks east of I-15. The doors open at 6 o'clock. You might want to bring your own beverages and snacks. Don't miss this chance to learn audience-tested effects and techniques.

The Ring 76 Close-up contest will be held on Monday evening, February 9th and it's time to practice your routines in preparation for the event.

Tables will be set up and each contestant will go from table to table doing their act. They will have 10 minutes at each table and after the last performer does his or her act members will be allowed to vote for their favorite act. The winners will be announced at the July officer installation banquet and awarded a medal and a cash prize.

Performers will be graded on their appearance, the material they choose and their skill. Some performers will have highly technical displays and others may have a clean routine and/or good comedy. We can only tell you that each act will be different and should be judged on its own merits.

The annual Ring 76 close-up contest is one of the most attended events of the year and is a much anticipated part of our annual program. Plan now to participate and start working on your presentation. Let Kenny Shelton know you want to be in the competition. No one will appreciate your efforts more than fellow magicians.



2008 Stand-Up Competition contestants from left to right: Donna Greenbaum, John London, Tom McCarthy, Craig Stone, Mago Ruly and Michael E. Johnson

Jack White Honored with Ringmaster Award

After months of secret planning, IBM Ring 76 honored Jack White with a special Ringmaster Award at the 2008 Holiday Banquet. President Terry Lunceford sprung the surprise at the beginning of the banquet by inviting Jack onstage. He presented Jack with a stunning trophy as proud wife Lynn looked on. He also gave Jack a check for \$500 from the Ring to be used towards the Popcorn Fund and any other incidental expenses. Jack has donated his facility for years without any compensation and the I.B.M. Board of Directors was determined to correct this oversight.

Next up, 2nd Vice President Michael E. Johnson showered Jack with awards and recognition from the city, state and nation. Mayor Jerry Sanders named Sunday, December 7th as Jack White Day in the City of San Diego. The beautiful proclamation recognized Jack's many accomplishments as a

leader in the community, a charity volunteer, an award-winning journalist, a mentor to magicians and even for his skills in making popcorn.

Other awards and congratulations were presented by State Senator Christine Kehoe, Congressman Duncan Hunter and Congresswoman Susan Davis.

To cap it off, IBM Ring 76 presented Jack with a collectible color photo (limited edition of 100) honoring his special day. Copies were provided to banquet attendees and many had their photos personally signed by the future President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Jack was clearly surprised at the outpouring of affection. And Ring 76 loves its Ringmaster too.



President Lunceford presents one-of-a-kind Ringmaster award



2nd VP Johnson displays commemorative photo



Jack White and wife Lynn share elation in the evening's honors



Cristina Ustick receives Appreciation award from Terry Lunceford



Magic Book Review

by

Dr. Joel Moskowitz, M.D.



Branded Into Your Audience's Memory

Reviewed by Joel A. Moskowitz MD

October 02, 2008

How would you like to devastate street urchins in the manner of David Blaine? There is a saying, "Build a better mouse trap and the world will build a path to your door". Walt Disney took it one step further: He built a better mouse! Tim Trono didn't invent the principal or even the idea for the blister gadget. He did create a better instrument to elicit acclaim from audiences.

Want a device applauded by Daryl and Paul Harris? Contact Tim Trono at Murphy's Magic Supplies. He will gladly sell you (for \$49.95) his astounding mechanism, with instructional DVD included. Tim, who himself doesn't appear in the DVD, is highly educated (three college degrees), an honor graduate of the Air Force Academy and now Project Coordinator and Purchasing Agent for Murphy's Magic Supplies, one of the leading and largest distributors of magic. He also is active performing close up magic. Given these credentials it is no wonder that he would create a masterful utilitarian effect.

Gregory Wilson is the spokesman on the well-crafted DVD: "Branded The Painless Card Blister". The title may be a misnomer. Tim Trono has done his homework, establishing the provenance of an effect described in Tarbell 7 (Kent Tiller). The narration provides the interested student/performer how the ideas of several predecessors evolved to Tim Trono's splendid creation "Branded The Painless Card Blister".

Sure it begins "Please take a card" but the unique manner of discovery will burn itself into the spectator's psyche. Imagine casually taking your BIC lighter out of your pocket; igniting the flame; pinching it; and "ouch" the flame is extinguished and you shake your fingers dramatizing the pain (not true). You call attention to your first finger and, voilá, the number of the chosen card is there and almost as an after thought, call attention to the pad of your thumb and another blister like configuration of the suit of the chosen card is there as well! Then stand aside as spectators fall down in shock, express glee and amazement and may even kiss your ring and ask to join your religion!

Performance vignettes of smooth Gregory Wilson in action will convince you that the audience reaction is one of excited awe. For a professional, the cost of "Branded" will not dissuade. It is the sort of magic that will evoke comments long after. It doesn't require hours of practice. It is not the 'find a card' tiresome prestidigitation.

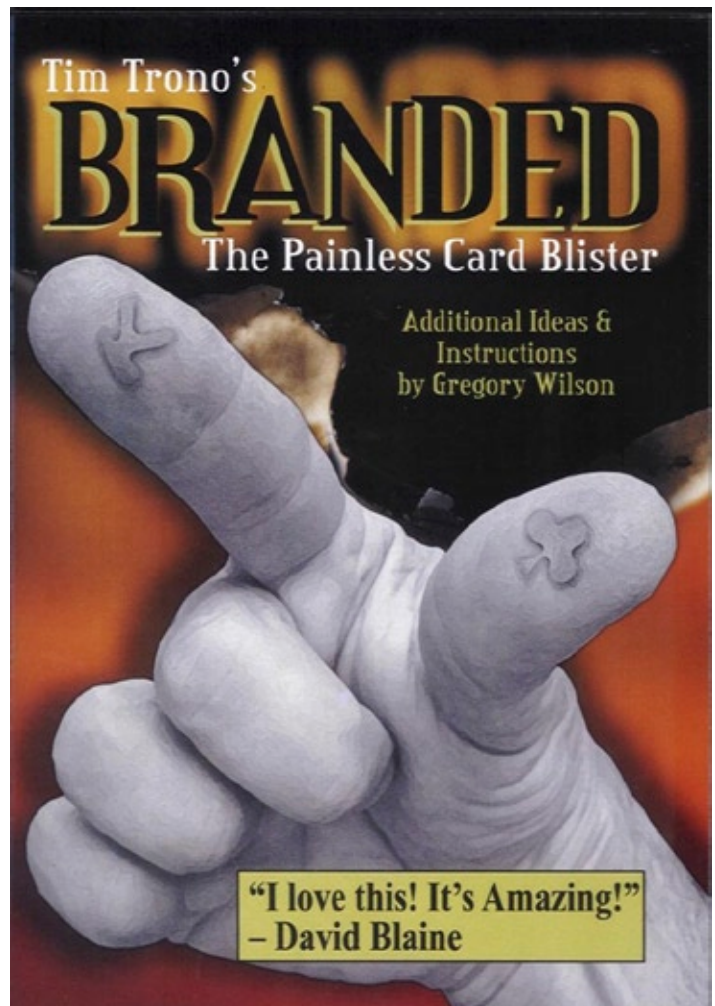
The apparatus (small but plays big) consists of two plastic forms, black in color, which fit on the outside of either the small or regular size BIC lighters. Previous versions depended upon putting your hand into your pocket, finding the template and pressing the pads of your fingers into the right symbols. Trono has bypassed this defect. One 'blister producer' (the larger of the two) has a heart, a diamond, and a club as well as a small circle (remember using the hole in your key) and on the other side a '3', a 'K', and a '7' all of which are artfully rounded as would be the form when a true 'blister' albeit an identifiable one would have resulted from pinching the flame. The smaller form is only for the three of hearts and two 'holes'.

Oh yes, the relevant card must be forced. If your venue is the street, you may be required to employ the classic force but with the benefit of a table - a criss cross force - with brief diversionary commentary will suffice.

Dealers can purchase from Murphy's Magic Supplies, Inc.

Attention: Tim Trono, Purchaser 11500 Gold Dredge Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 USA Direct Telephone (916)
290-6061 Fax (916) 853-9494

If you want to attract new business, Branded The Painless Card Blister is definitely for you.



Ring 76 Members News Makers in Late 2008!

As the year 2009 takes its place in history we take just a moment to look back at the last six weeks of 2008 and what some of our members were doing during that time. Thanksgiving was late in 2008 and the Tuesday before Thanksgiving Day Kenny Shelton was busy doing his juggling and magic for the thousands of people who turned out to donate blood at the annual Chargers' Blood Drive. During one period in the morning Kenny gave a juggling lesson to one of Santa's Elves that just happened to be watching Kenny do his stuff! We felt these pictures were too good not to share.



Kenny Shelton

Someone once said, "Children are the toughest audience a magician can play to." That may be true for some magicians but it is clear from these pictures of Michael E. Johnson an audience of 10 year-olds is just another audience. This was a birthday party that Michael was the guest star of in late 2008. Judging by the looks on these 10 year-old faces, Michael had their full attention. The next time someone asks you to do a birthday party show and you are afraid, send for Michael - he knows how to handle kids.



Michael E. Johnson

Marvyn Roy, better known as Mr. Electric, once said, "All your life you hope that your act is good enough to appear at the major magic conventions." Then when you get old they start asking you to magic conventions to present you with awards for all of those shows you did when you were younger. The Las Vegas I.B.M. Ring 257 honored Marvyn & Carol Roy on December 1st. Sherry Luft was there and was honored by having her photo taken with Lance Burton. Jack White had his picture taken with Fielding West. And he also got to give Marvyn Roy an I.B.M. Certificate for his work in magic. What does all of this mean? If you want your picture taken with a famous magician, go to a magic convention.



Marvyn Roy with Jack White



Sherry Luft with Lance Burton





*Message
from the
Ring 76
President*

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

*Terry Lunceford
Ring 76 President*

From the editor...

Aside from taking minutes of Ring meetings and official secretarial duties as well as editing MagiCurrents each month, I also update the Ring 76 web site.

While no single activity is overbearing, the combination of chores has resulted in an "attention deficit" for the proper care and feeding of our web site. Such neglect needs to be addressed at this time.

I am asking for a member volunteer to take over the web site maintenance as soon as possible. I will train this person but it must be understood that, like board positions, all labors are, unfortunately, not rewarded with monetary compensation.

Should someone come forward to provide a small amount of relief to my burden it would be greatly appreciated. Contact me at the next meeting or via e-mail and I'll go over the fine points of the task.

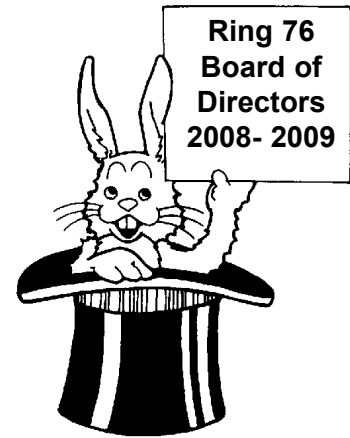
— Don Soul, webmaster
dsoul@san.rr.com

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"If only banks could float loans that easily."



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*denotes past Ring 76 president

For information on membership or Ring events contact secretary Don Soul by e-mail at dsoul@san.rr.com or by phone at (858) 484-3492

NEWS

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY to **Bob Elliott**, Sunday, January 4th. If you don't have it on your calendar yet, **Dr. Jeff Pearson** is planning a "Magic Birthday Party: for Bob & Happy. The party is at Jeff's house in Rancho Bernardo, the address is 10411 Matinal Circle and it starts at 12:30 and goes 'til 4. Gag gifts will be accepted but not necessary. Bring a deck of cards and do a few tricks at the party. Bob & Happy Elliott have given so much to magic and magicians so it's time to show them a special afternoon of entertainment.

San Diego's magic legend **J.C. Wagner** will be one of the featured lectures at this summer's I.B.M. Magic Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. John Wagner has been working on a special program of his most popular effects for this lecture with some surprise new material thrown in as an added attraction. If you can make it to Nashville and Opeyland for the Convention say hello. J.C. appears every weekend at the Little Club in Coronado doing bar magic. The I.B.M. has extended your opportunity to register for this year's convention and save \$40. You have until February 1st to register at \$210 then the registration fee jumps to \$250. If you are planning to go to Nashville don't let this savings slip away, register today.

One of the most popular Holiday gift ideas for magicians this year was **Joshua Jay's** new book on "Magic, the Complete Course," that also includes a DVD of clever effects. The book has been in the works for nearly two years and is in full color. In addition to some very nice magic, there are sections on magic history, impromptu magic and how to get your act together. There is really something for everyone in these pages whether you are a beginner or an advanced performer. The best part is, the book and DVD retails for \$20.



Tom McCarthy was on the east coast for a couple of weeks and took time to drop by Charleston, North Carolina and visit with former San Diego magician **Craig Stone**. Tom says Charleston is a delightful place to visit and says there are two magic groups in the city. One group is the I.B.M. Ring that only has a hand full of members; the other is a Sleight-of-Hand group with 15 to 20 members, all of whom are very skilled entertainers whose meetings are programs of each person performing for the group. Tom says they are very good sessions.

Restoration Hardware in Mission Valley seemed to be the magic shop of choice in San Diego this Christmas season. They offered a very good looking magic set with a quality assortment of props that included a nice set of cups and balls and linking rings. They also had packaged up several variety packs of gags and jokes that we are all familiar with. Because there are so few retail magic shops any more, Restoration Hardware is very smart and taking over the magic & novelty market by selling quality magic, jokes and gags and store officials say they were very successful with this line in a down economy.

Jack White is set to attend the mid-year I.B.M. Business Meeting in Las Vegas on January 24th. Next year that meeting will be held here in San Diego in preparation for the I.B.M. Convention returning to this city.

Ring 76 President **Terry Lunceford**, for the first time in 20-years, decided not to work on New Year's Eve this

BRIEFS

year. Terry, in years past, has always had at least one booking on New Year's Eve, but this year decided to stay at home. Rumor has it Terry has been working with Magician **Yigal Neslka** on a video for Neslka's new remote control "Spider Pen" that uses invisible thread to accomplish a variety of miracles. Terry says the new magic appliance is one of the most sophisticated and exciting items he has ever seen. January 11th to the 15th Terry and his wife will be in Utah, skiing. Terry is taking some magic with him in case the opportunity to work comes up in the posh ski community of Park City.

Terry Godfrey is headed out to the Oregon Fair Association meetings January 8 to the 11th. Then Terry and **Mike Stilwell** will be working at the "Houston Party" in Palm Springs. The Houston family puts on several large private parties each year with many celebrities in attendance and always invite Terry and Mike to perform for their guests. Terry will round out the first month of the New Year with a booth at the Western Fair Association meeting on January 25 to 28 in Reno, Nevada. Terry will book most of his spring, summer and early fall work at the Fair meetings.

Toni Perrine will begin the New Year with her "Belly Dancing" routine at "Coffee Haven," the coffee house in Long Beach. On January 10th she will do her magic and belly dancing act in Alhambra, California, as part of a magic contest. The Alhambra show comes just a day after Toni gets back from a cruise for those interested in Clown work. The cruise begins in Florida and goes to Jamaica then back to Florida. It sounds like a great way to get the year started. We say **HAPPY NEW YEAR** everyone!

Coming Attractions

February 9	Close-up competition
March 9	Lecture: TBA
April 13	Swap Meet
May 11	Stand-up competition
June 8	Dues/Election/Favorite trick
July 12	Installation banquet

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*In Memory of
Diane Lane
1957 - 2008*



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MagiCurrents is published monthly by Ring 76 and is edited by Don Soul. We encourage articles, stories, pictures and news items of interest. All material should be submitted to Don Soul by e-mail at dsoul@san.rr.com or written manuscripts may be submitted to Don Soul, 10068 Branford Rd., San Diego, CA 92129-3223.