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Photos from Ring 76 Swap Meet on April 13



SAN DIEGO RING 76, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS



May 11 meeting features stage competition



Excitement fills the air on Monday, May 11, when Ring 76 hosts the annual Stage Competition at 7:00 p.m. Who will be recognized as San Diego's Stage Magician of the Year? Anything can happen. The photo to the left is from the 2007 Stage Competition, when Diane dazzled the audience at Jack's Magic Place.

First Vice President **Kenny Shelton** of Alpine reports at least three competitors already signed up: **Jacques Lord**, **Loch David Crane** and **Bob Meigs**. A total of eight competitors will be accepted, with each act allotted ten minutes. At the end of the evening, Ring 76 members will vote on their favorite.

Winners will be announced at the Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers in July. Just for fun, **Jack White** of San Diego will debut a new nostalgia act called "The Galloping Gertie" with **J.P. Jackson** of San Diego in a Gorilla suit.

If you want to compete, contact Kenny at 619-517-1286 or send him an e-mail

Board of Directors prepare for next election

At the May 18 meeting, President **Terry Lunceford** of La Mesa will announce the next slate of candidates for Ring 76, as recommended by the Board of Directors.

Club members will be given one final opportunity to seek office. If additional candidates wish to be considered, a formal election will be held at the June meeting, with the installation of officers in July. Otherwise, the group can vote for the recommended slate of candidates right at the May meeting, before any nominees have time to escape.

During the April 27 meeting, the Board praised Terry for his enthusiasm, his leadership and his ability to strong-arm world-class talent to come to San Diego. Everyone appreciated his hands-on approach, whether he was entertaining with sleight of hand or wrangling trash cans to keep the Magic Club tidy. Terry said he's looking forward to more relaxing interests in the future, like race car driving.

The slate of candidates are President **Michael E. Johnson**, 1st Vice President **Belinda Kaesler**, 2nd Vice President **Kenny Shelton**, Treasurer **Richard Ustick**, Secretary **Bob Meigs**, Sgt.-at-Arms/Librarian **Donna Greenbaum**, and Members-at-Large **James Thayer**



Ring 76 Tidbits

All members are welcome to come to a meeting of the Ring 76 Board of Directors. There's not much magic, but there are a lot of opportunities for volunteers to get appointed to things.

Do you know of a good meeting location? Ring 76 needs more space for our bigger events, like the Swap Meet, the Auction, and the Holiday Banquet. The ideal location would be central to San Diego County and inexpensive.

When the I.B.M. International Convention comes to San Diego in 2010, Ring 76 will have an opportunity to sell T-shirts. At the last big convention here, in 2002, Ring 76 made several thousand dollars to support the club's community-based activities. If you have any design ideas, contact a Board member.

Many thanks to **Frank Lehmann** of Vista for making DVD cases and labels for the Ring 76 Library. To access the Ring's private library, contact **Donna Greenbaum** of Solana Beach at 858-793-0785.

Thanks to all who helped Ring 76 during the Swap Meet; the club made money by renting dealer tables and from sales at a table of donations secured by **Greg Wauson** of San Diego and staffed by **Don Soul** of San Diego.



New Editor thanks Don Soul

Michael E. Johnson is the new Editor of **MagiCurrents**, the official newsletter of I.B.M. Ring 76. He said, "Thanks to the efforts of previous Editor **Don Soul**, this newsletter has prospered from the printed page to the digital age. Today, **MagiCurrents** is considered one of the top magic club monthlies in America."



Before ditching reality to work as a Magician, Michael was an award-winning journalist. He went to San Diego State University on a journalism scholarship. Over the years he's edited hundreds of newsletters, journals, newspapers, tabloids, books, magazines and websites. Some of his titles include "European Television," "Broadcast Investor," "Media Mergers & Acquisitions," "Pacific Poetry & Fiction Review," "Space Autograph News" and "Punk Research".)

Johnson plans to keep the high standards of the magic newsletter in place, also following the guidelines of the Associated Press Style Manual. His focus will be on news and photos about Ring 76, the members, membership benefits, and magic activities around San Diego County. Typos will not be tolerated.

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News contributions and photos are needed throughout the year. The deadline is the third Friday of the month, or May 15 for the June issue. Johnson hopes to publish the newsletter during the first week of each month. "I'm excited about editing this newsletter," Johnson said. "We have such an interesting club in San Diego. The more I learn about our members, the more fascinating it becomes." He added, "I see a magic renaissance coming to San Diego in 2010. We have a great club, our man **Jack White** will be the International President, and the world of magic is coming to our doorstep with the 2010 I.B.M. Convention here. It's a good time to be a magic lover in San Diego!" For info call Michael at 760-747-4627.



Photo by Maxwell Johnson



Bob Ingalls debuts at Fechter's

On Friday, April 24, **Bob Ingalls** made San Diego history when he performed in New York at the prestigious 4-F Convention, also known as Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolics. This invitation-only event gathers some of the world's top close-up magicians.

Just days before the event, Bob was excited about his opportunity to perform. For safety purposes, he decided to pack magic in two bags, one trick in his luggage and one trick as carry-on. He ended up performing a Henry Evans effect, something he shared with Ring 76 members in meetings past.

Only this time, the trick's creator **Henry Evans** himself, was sitting in the front row. Bob said that Henry gave him positive feedback about his performance. "It made me feel good," said the former Ring 76 President.

Terry Lunceford is a Fechter's regular, and he was travelling with Bob. Terry said he tried for years to get into Fechter's, before organizer **Obie O'Brien** gave him the green light. He was planning to debut a new card

trick he's been working on, where one chosen card seems to bite the deck and spit out another chosen card. Terry has performed this a few times at the club, and everyone was stunned.

Bob and Happy Elliott of Oceanside have been 4-F regulars for years. Happy made her mark there when she was the first magician's spouse invited to attend the festivities.

Obie, who puts on the event each year, will continue to work on the program but will bring **Joan Caesar** and **Hank Morehouse** into the mix of producing the annual event. Next year the FFFF will be celebrating its 40th year. For more information on the 4-F Convention, visit www.ffffmagic.com.

Mike Stilwell spooks radio hosts

Magic Mike Stilwell freaked out radio hosts Jeff and Jer on Star 94.1, when they asked him to serve as an expert witness in a psychic challenge.

The Rancho San Diego resident had just dropped his kid off at school on Friday morning, April 17, when he heard his name mentioned on the Jeff and Jer radio show. Apparently, the popular duo were offering \$10,000 to anyone who could flip over dice with only the power of the mind.

While Magic Mike raced home, anticipating a phone call, Jeff and Jer decided to call the former Corvette Diner magician as a consultant, to protect their investment. Luckily, Mike has a history with Jer, having performing several times at his house for private parties. As if by magic, Mike burst through the door just in time to receive the call.

They asked him if it was possible for a Magician to flip dice over through trickery. While admitting no supernatural powers, Magic Mike said "Yes, that's what we



Photo by Cynthia Johnson

do." Later, they asked him if it was possible for someone to do it with mind power. Magic Mike admitted it might be possible, though highly unlikely. He mentioned James Randi's psychic challenge, offering a \$1,000,000 reward, that has yet to be claimed.

After the conversation, one host said, "I genuinely wish we hadn't called him." The contest was later cancelled, due to concerns from the legal department.

After listening to the podcast, Magic Mike's son said with pride, "Dad, you scared them to death!" You can listen to the Podcast too by visiting www.jeffandjer.star941sandiego.com, and visiting the Podcast for April 17, beginning around 7:45 a.m.

The photo to the left of Magic Mike (with card on forehead) was taken at a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society fundraiser, while the photo

Jeff Pearson enjoys birthday with Copperfield



Photo from Jeff Pearson

Dr. Jeff Pearson of San Diego enjoyed his latest birthday in style, catching the David Copperfield show on Saturday, May 2, in Temecula. Copperfield did four shows at the Pechanga Casino May 2 and 3.

Jeff said the show was "phenomenal" and "absolutely perfect". His favorite trick was the floating rose. He also admired the theatrical style. Jeff saw the show from the second row, with son Michael and friends Bob and Happy Elliott of Oceanside. The Elliotts have known Copperfield for years, ever since Bob helped him get a job teaching magic at New York University.

A few weeks ago, Jeff shared his magic at Kit Carson Park in Escondido for the Elizabeth Hospice. If you'd like to perform free for these worthy events, contact Jeff at magicdoc@sprainedangles.com. When you get a chance, ask Jeff about his new project at www.sprainedangles.com. Did you know he is in negotiation for Chinese distribution of his humorous novelty



Review by Joel Moskowitz, M.D.

Light reading for Magicians: Roberto Giobbi's "Card College Light" and "Card College Lighter"

Do not read these two volumes if you simply want to learn how to do card tricks without sleight of hand. Do not read these two volumes to discover new principles of deception. Do read these fine books if you wish to learn about the essential elements of performing professionally.

Even if you don't fit the characteristic definition of a 'professional' as with musicians being paid to play, the word professional brings to mind a higher level of proficiency. Roberto Giobbi is renowned for his definitive "Card College," a testimony not only to his knowledge of conjuring with cards but his talents as a teacher as well.

The latter five volumes of card magic specializes in the sleights which enable miracles to happen before spectator's eyes. "Card College Light" and "Card College Lighter" were both published in 1988 in Vienna (the city, incidentally, where J.N. Hofzinsner's seminal work was the foundation for modern magic with cards). The recent English edition is brought to you by Hermetic Press.

Why are these two books different from most other books? They speak to the reader with the voice/words of Roberto who knows what makes card magic entertaining. It is not, as one might think, for beginners only. Neither is it for those who either have little finger flicking dexterity or have neither the patience nor ability to learn knuckle bending sleights.

What makes these volumes unique is the author's appreciation of the elements of presentation. Many cardicians don't appreciate how important it is for their audience to "like" them. The folks in the bleachers identify with the rapport you have with the person whom you ask to pick a card. Acrobatic pasteboards by themselves quickly dampen interest. Staging, communication and psychology are absent from most beginners instructional manuals on becoming a wizard. Don't believe when it is touted as "self-working". Absent sensitivity to the interpersonal, card tricks quickly become an annoyance.

"Card College Light" by Roberto Giobbi, 151 pages hardbound, illustrated by Barbara Giobbi-Ebnoter, and translated by David Shephard, contains seven professional sleightless routines. The first routine has three effects: an impossible revelation of two cards; via 'intuition' two spectators are able to separate a shuffled deck into black and red cards.

Routine two: magician discovers two cards chosen fairly; with a royal flush, the magician triumphs in a poker demonstration; by pendulum divination the card is found.

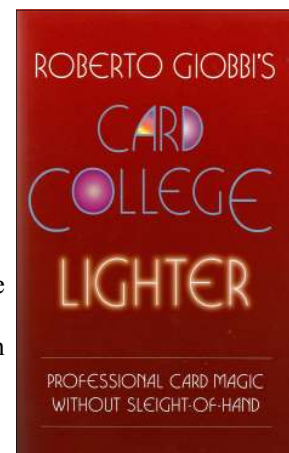
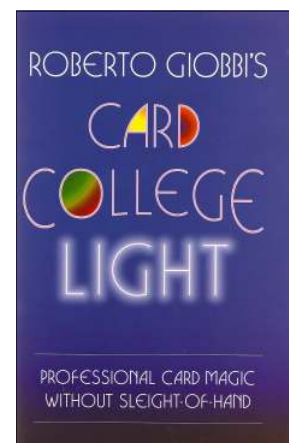
Routine three: An under-the-table detection; purporting to have capacity to do muscle reading, a card is discovered; another ingenious lie detector effect.

Routine four: Although seemingly the magician fails, the wizard wins again, an estimation effect where the magician divines the number of cards taken from a deck.

Routine five: Employing only three questions, magician identifies the chosen card and produces the other three cards of the same value.

Routine six: An astonishing detection of two cards picked and shuffled by two spectators; a hands-off surprise finding of a card the spectator alone touched; a prediction (a particular favorite of mine) with dramatic story.

Routine seven: Another one I predict you will like - includes throwing the deck face-down in chaotic order, entitled Vernon's miracle - no magician will resist this. "Ask me no questions, I will tell you no lies" is the refrain. Yet while no inquiries are made, the magician supplies the answers and finds the thought-of card. Giobbi credits friend Richard Vollmer for modifying an 'old' mathematical stunt for the latter. Roberto is to be congratulated for supplying credits where appropriate, sources in a bibliography, but he doesn't expect the reader/student to have access to the Magic Castle Library for references. The tricks are explained clearly, make sense and are destined to be entertaining.



Book photos from Joel Moskowitz

(continued)



News Briefs by Jack White & Friends

Craig Stone has checked in from his home in North Carolina; he tells **MagiCurrents** that he has booked 18 shows in San Diego County during a three-week period this summer. In addition to the shows, his reason for returning to San Diego is to see his new grandson who was born January 25th of this year. Craig hopes to attend the August meeting of Ring 76 before returning to North Carolina. This photo of Craig to the left was taken at a Ring 76 meeting.

Registration for the I.B.M. Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, June 30 to July 4th is now over 500. Convention producers were concerned that tough economic times might slow down early registrations, but that is not the case. Right now registrations for this summer's annual convention are way ahead of last year. Many San Diegans are attending to support **Jack White**, as he becomes the new I.B.M. President. Meanwhile, **Terry Richison** convention chairman is planning a trip to San Diego in May to look over various sites planned for the 2010 Convention in this city.

Another hard working pro is **Joel Ward**, formerly from Cardiff, who had planned to attend our May meeting and the stand-up competition but has to be in Chicago instead. Joel is now living in Los Angeles and working on TV shows, at the Magic Castle and also doing several cruise tours. We look forward to having him at one of our coming meetings. From April 27—May 3, Joel will be at the Magic Castle, from May 11—18 he'll be at Magic In Savannah, then from May 27—30, he'll entertain at the Comedy & Magic Club in Hermosa Beach. For updates, visit www.joelwardmagic.com.

Charles Arlington, who appeared as the magician in San Diego's long running play "Triple Espresso," appeared on the Channel 6 morning show talking about his one-man show to be presented at the North Park Vaudeville Theater, on El Cajon Blvd., May 1st. Based in San Diego, Charles has been on the high seas doing shows for a cruise line in recent weeks. He is a very fine performer who works very hard at his craft and is opening doors on the local scene. For more info, visit

www.charlesarlington.com.



(continued)

Photo from Joel Ward's website

Review by Joel Moskowitz (continued)

Paul Potassy, a highly regarded magician, was asked to write a testimonial to the second volume "Card Magic Lighter". Potassy says it well when he describes Roberto's writing as calling for little memorization and a minimum of preparation. He was introduced on his DVD by Jeff McBride who said that Potassy performed magical minimalism and maximum impact.

This 155-page Hardbound book fits the bill precisely. Themes are extraordinary: mental-like poker where you might get kicked out of a Las Vegas casino, or three-card Monte where the magician could be blindfolded, or a prediction where the card is linked to a celebrity.

Roberto Giobbi constructs innovative, clever, entertaining magic with pasteboards. Because the mechanisms don't require long knuckle-blasting maneuvers in front of a mirror, the performer has ample time to learn how to perform, which is, after all, what a magical performance is all about. These two Giobbi masterpieces are highly recommended.



News Briefs by Jack White (continued)

Kenny Shelton of Alpine trades his magic wand for golf clubs on Sunday, May 17, when he debuts on the Golf Channel Amateur Tour. The first event will be held at Steele Canyon Golf Club in Jamul. Kenny has many talents, not only as a Magician but as a juggler who awed Regis Philbin on "America's Got Talent." He has golfed since he was 15. For info, visit www.thegolfchannel.com. The photo to the right shows Kenny frying an audience at the Charger's Blood Drive.



Jim Pace from Portland, Oregon, is going to be in San Diego on May 14 and will be holding a Free Lecture at the Holiday Inn, 3805 Murphy Canyon Road at 7 p.m. Jim will have a conference room at the hotel and will be able to accommodate 25 people for the lecture. He is a great inventor and an excellent performer; Jim will be offering 13 new items in his lecture. We had hoped to bring him in as part of a Ring 76 program but our schedule is jammed with other lectures.

Veteran magician **Lee Grabel** will turn 90 in May. A big birthday bash is being planned by members of the I.B.M. Rings and S.A.M. Assemblies in the Oakland and San Francisco Bay area. Some years ago Lee Grabel retired from performing and gave all of his props and his mantel to Lance Burton.

Tom McCarthy marks his tenth year performing at The Gathering, the venerable Mission Hills eatery that always has magic. Tom performs on Friday nights from 6:00—9:00 p.m. His magic with cards and coins is styled for sophisticated audiences. The Gathering is located at 902 W. Washington St. near Goldfinch in San Diego. Call 619-260-0400.

Syd Segal does it again, bringing FISM World Champion Henry Evans to lecture on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. at Jack's Magic Place in San Diego. For info on this and future lectures, call Syd at 619-300-1344 or e-mail at BTL6380@aol.com.



Jim Whiting of Encinitas will share magic, draw sketches and sign autographs at the Arts in Bloom Art Walk in Del Mar on Sunday, May 17. The event will be held from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Flower Hill Promenade, 2720 Via De La Valle, in Del Mar. More than 40 artists will be represented, and Jim will have copies of his popular book "Analecta" available for purchase. A few days later, Jim and wife **Bernita** will attend the National Cartoonists Society convention at the Renaissance Hotel in Hollywood from May 22-24. Jim's new e-mail is jimtoons1@aol.com.

J.P. Jackson and **Jack White** sold out their entire table of merchandise on May 2 at the Magic Castle Swap Meet in Hollywood. Hundreds of people flowed through the sale, the biggest crowd Jack has ever seen. There were more than 50 sellers spread

out over three floors in the Magic Castle. Many San Diegans travelled north for the spectacle, some in carpools, some wishing for carpools.

Congratulations to **Bob Elliott & Happy** of Oceanside, whose daughter Jennifer graduates from the Berkeley Haas School of Business on May 17.

Watch for **Mago Ruly** of Tijuana on the TV Show Club Kids on Cox Cable Channel 12, Monday through Fridays from 2:30—4:00 p.m.

Magician **Michael E. Johnson** taught magic and performed shows at the Arts In The Park festival in Fallbrook on Sunday, April 26. Johnson gave away hundreds of tricks at Live Oak Park, letting families take home their own bags of magic fun. He also escaped from handcuffs and shackles.

For the most current update of magic events in San Diego County, visit www.SanDiegoMagicNews.com.

