



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

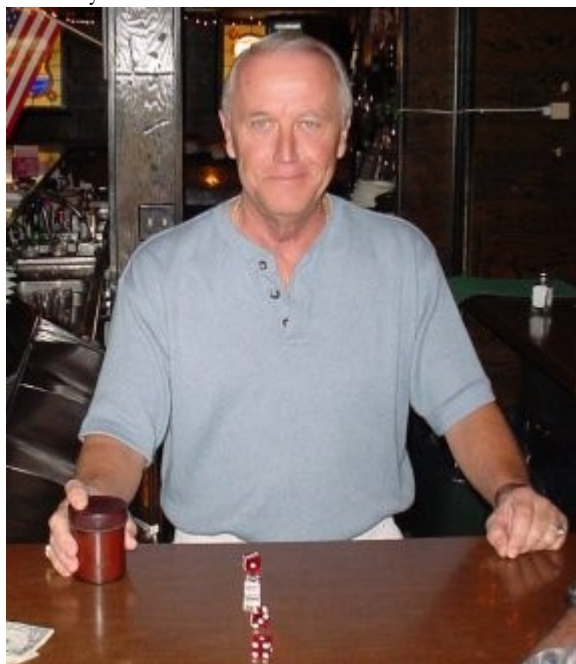
SEPTEMBER 2010

VOL. XXIV #9

J.C. Wagner

1944-2010

On August 15, J.C. Wagner passed away following a battle with colon cancer. He died peacefully with his family in attendance.



J.C. was a long time member of Ring 76 and served as Ring President in 1973. J.C. got his start in magic after seeing a magician perform at a school carnival. He made his professional debut at the Point Loma Library in 1960. In 1962, J.C. starting working at Disneyland in Merlin's Magic Shop, alongside Steve Martin. J.C. served in the Air Force from 1965 through 1969 as ground support on the SR-71 Blackbird.

J.C. started performing bar magic, along with Bob Sheets at Marco's Roman Room in Coronado. J.C. was co-owner of The Magic Lounge from 1977 to 1981. Following this, he was invited to work at the Magic Island in Newport Beach. In 1985, he started appearing weekly in the Close-Up Gallery at the Magic Castle.

J.C. retired from magic in late 1990 and then staged a comeback in 2003. He performed many times at the Magic Castle as well as performing magic on Saturdays at "The Little Club" in Coronado.

J.C. was known throughout the magic world and produced many effects such as Queens Debate, Factory Misprints and the Gypsy Curse Variation. He was well known for One Tear at a Time and for his books "The Seven Secrets of JC Wagner" and "The Commercial Work of JC Wagner".

J.C. earned many awards and accolades including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Las Vegas Magic Invitational and a Lifetime Achievement Fellowship in Close-up Magic from the Academy of Magical Arts.

In lieu of flowers or cards, the Wagner family requests that donations be sent to the Dai Vernon Fund; c/o The Magic Castle, 7001 Franklin Ave.; Hollywood, CA 90028. This fund benefits magician's who are in financial distress.

A private memorial service was held by his family that included a scattering of his ashes at sea. There will be a memorial service for J.C. on Saturday, October 2nd at McP's Irish Pub & Grill in Coronado. The service will start at 1pm but please arrive no later than 12:30pm. Contact Syd Segal sydsegal@gmail.com for further information.

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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President's Message

Well, we're on our way with the 2010-2011 Magic Year for Ring 76. The August meeting was magic that you learned over the summer. I saw the email asking for members to sign up and there were only two members who signed up in advance. In order to have a full lineup, at the last minute, I had ask around before the meeting to see if there were any members willing to perform. I would like to say thank you to all the members who stepped up and performed.

Our next meeting, in September, is classics of magic. This is a chance to perform one of many classic magic effects from the past. These are the basics like the cups and balls, the linking rings, and cut and restored rope, just to name a few. Please email Belinda (magiclites@yahoo.com) or me (magician84@wildblue.net) to sign up for next meeting to perform a classic of magic. We would like to see more than two members sign up so don't delay. Also please email me for any announcements of up coming shows and lectures. (*Editors note: The Webmage also appreciates receiving these announcements. His address is webmage@ring76.com.*)

At the last meeting, we all heard that JC Wagner was not doing well. But we kept JC in our minds and hoped that he would pull through. Sunday evening, I went on to my email and saw an update on JC. I clicked on it and saw that JC had passed away that evening. JC Wagner was a great guy and a great thinker in card magic. I had a chance to meet him and get to know him last year at the IBM convention in Nashville. He help me out with one of his card effects that I was doing in the close up compaction.

He never minded helping you out if you were trying to get a move or a trick down. He would watch it and then he would come up with a new handling or different ending for the effect. The neat thing was watching him at The Little Club doing magic behind the bar. He lived a life full of magic from The Magic Lounge to the Magic Castle. JC, rest in peace, friend. You will be missed.

— Kenny Shelton

August Meeting

The theme for the August meeting of Ring 76 was Magic I Learned Over the Summer.

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by new President Kenny Shelton. Kenny's first order of business was to introduce David Isreal II, the Ring 76 member who won second place in the MYI Competition at the 2010 IBM Convention. Congratulations, David!!

The Ring also acknowledged the birthday of member James Kellogg, Jr. (2010 Entertainer of the Year – Congratulations to you, too, James!). Bob Meigs corrected an oversight at the July banquet by acknowledging Peg Marcus as one of the Ring members who had worked many hours at the Convention. And then, it was on to the magic!

Tony Perrine did a beautiful production routine called Flowers and Such, followed by some folding bill routines: Derek Ostovani's \$100 Bill Mystery, and Charlie Gott's Lesson in Economics.

And then there were card tricks: Kenny Shelton did a Signed Card in Balloon, Jeff Marcus did an Ambitious Card (you didn't really learn that this summer, did you Jeff?) (*Editor's Note: Jeff's trick was based on a routine taught by Shawn Farquhar at the IBM Convention*) and Chuck Cook performed 4-Card Monte.

The always original Greg Wauson interrupted the series of card tricks with his Indestructible Post It routine, followed by James Kellogg III's Unnamed Card Trick, and Card Prediction routines by Mago Ruly and Jeff Pearson.

Our closer for the evening was "Perfesser Howard," performing a Needle through Balloon.

This was one of our shortest meetings in recent years, adjourning by 8PM, but it was a good time, good magic, good friends, and all appropriate Ring business handled very efficiently by the new President Shelton.

— Bob Meigs



Photos from the August Meeting



Toni Perrine



Derrick Ostovani



Chuck Cook



Charlie Gott



Photos from the August Meeting



Kenny Shelton



Jeff Marcus



Jeff Pearson



James Kellogg III (right) assisted by Derek Ostovani

Photos from the August Meeting



Greg Wauson



Perfesser Howard (right) assisted by Belinda Kaesler



Mago Ruly (right) assisted by David Isreal



An August Group of Performers

Close but no Cigar

*"Devious" DVDs by Michael Close
Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D
August 08, 2010*

Google defines "Devious" as "showing a skillful use of underhanded tactics to achieve goals" and (of a route or journey) Longer and less direct than the most straightforward way". Michael Close satisfies these definitions on his two volume DVDs published by L&L Publishing.

"It is not the trick, it is the theory behind the trick" stresses Michael Close. Close seems to apologize for his DVDs being only card tricks. Michael infers that by learning how he handles the subtleties of magic, viewers can apply the principles to other areas of magic. This, sadly, is a leap. The premise that careful attention to routine, audience reaction and distraction, pacing, performer-audience rapport, are essential ingredients in well performed magic is a 'given'. How an illusionist will benefit from the hints that these DVDs purport to instruct might not be so obvious.

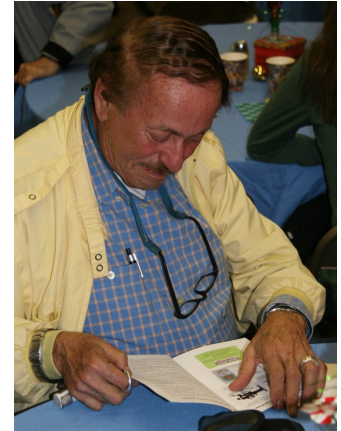
He begins with the *Trick That Lance Burton Showed (him)*. Naturally, Michael Close specializes in close-up. Precious to him is to be able to baffle fellow magicians. His expertise, evident on these DVDs, and knowledge of multiple techniques to accomplish the same effect, suggests that in this aim, he is triumphant.

His goal, he says, is to perform as though he has real magical powers. The gambit is to count four cards into a spectator's hand. (Think Six Card Repeat) He advises the spectator to spread the cards to ascertain that there are only four cards. To show her the way, he spreads the remaining cards. This allows him to note and separate the three bottom cards which he deftly takes into his left hand in an Erdnase bottom palm. Retrieving the cards from her, he secretly adds these three and returns them to her flat palm. With his (seven) cards, he does a series of Elmsley counts. To deceive the audience, he pushes the last card with his middle finger. Michael Close micro-dissects the psychology of viewers who 'gave up' because he so bewilders them and the others who are still seeking to deduce the secret. Pulling down on his previously rolled up sleeves, he lets to of the remaining four cards which are palmed in his right hand to be 'caught' as they join the other two. This convinces some that he was able to do the effect by having cards up his sleeve. Not so!

Then Michael proceeds to continue to 'throw away' one card while still having 'four' remaining (actually two) and then only one. The latter happens to be the four of

spades, which was the top card of the four that Michael initially gave the spectator.

Gary Plants has a gaffed card which allows the magician to perform the *Magnetized Deck*. Michael will not reveal the secret of the gaffed card out of respect for the inventor/manufacturer. He does teach how to cull cards under the spread deck.. Using the gamblers cop which he demonstrates he goes on to suspend a dozen or so cards from his flat palm.



The next effect utilizes the Aaronson stack which he, of course, doesn't reveal. Viewers who don't know the Aaronson stack will not get much out of this section. As a drill, Michael employs a metronome to practice getting the cards in high/low order and to improve your estimation and where the cards exist in the stack. A musician as well as a magician, he compares memorizing a stack to learning music.

Michael does demonstrate various ways to do The Pass. Classic, Hermann, or Steve Drawn's shift, or Ed Marlo's Bobble Shift. Close is fond of the 'Black Pass'. Viewers would have to be cognizant of these various techniques. He advocates stopping at half way and then making another motion and at his 'leisure' completes the dirty work. Referring to his E-book on The Faro Shuffle, he illustrates various maneuvers to 'correct' should you do a 'wrong' faro shuffle.

These DVDs are for the card tactician, not for beginners. Referring to masters of the pasteboards, with whom he is intimately familiar, Michael Close evidences his passion for precision. With attention to the smallest details of misdirection, the logic of perception and how to deceive, he proves he is a master conjurer. A consummate professional, he shares his techniques for entertaining while baffling the audience. If your level is arithmetic, but your mind becomes muddled with differential equations in calculus, these DVDs will not speak your language. You might try his 'Workers Series' and the several E-books where this erudite master magician teaches.

For the expert cardician, these DVDs are highly recommended (Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx 5/5). For the novice, or beginner, take Tylenol.



Classic Magic

This month's meeting will be on Monday, September 13th with pre-meeting events starting at 6:30. The actual meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 with a quick business meeting, for there is always business to discuss.

After the business meeting we will move to the entertainment portion of the night. The theme of September's meeting will be "Classical Magic." All Ring 76 members are asked to perform "classical" tricks from their collections.

These can be classical close-up effects, classical stage illusions, or classical parlor tricks. The decision is up to you. This is not a night for the latest in any area of magic. This is a night to show the Ring the tricks and illusions that have made magic so memorable.

It can be any classic trick or routine, but we will limit the members to only five "Linking Ring" acts.

'MagiToon'

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



"Gee, Grandpa, I bet a REAL magician would change that piece to make it fit."

I mean really. How much of a good thing can we take? So dust off those illusions that got you into magic in the first place and show them to all your fellow magicians.

If you wish to perform, please contact Belinda Kaesler at belindamagic@yahoo.com and she will make sure that you are on the list.

— Richard Ustick



An Old Favorite Returns

Ring 76 is bringing back an old favorite. Starting with the October meeting, Ring 76 will be featuring "door

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prizes” of magical interest. For the meager amount of \$1 per ticket, or seven tickets for \$5, everyone attending the meeting has the chance to win a fabulous magical prize.

Which brings us to the second part of this announcement. Ring 76 is looking for donations to fill its prize coffers. If you have anything that you would like to donate to the Ring for future Door Prizes, please contact Kenny Shelton, or Donna Greenbaum. These should be new, or at least originally packaged magic items, or classic items in good condition.

Bring your dollars because tickets will be available starting at the October meeting.

— Richard Ustick

Library

Do you know that Ring 76 has an extensive collection of Books and DVD's? A list of these Books and DVDs is available at www.Ring76.com. If you are a member in good standing, then all you need to do to borrow a DVD for a month, let Donna Greenbaum know which DVD you would like to borrow and it will be brought to the meeting. Donna can be contacted by call 858-793-0785 or at Librarian@Ring76.com.

Contact Sherrie Luft at the meeting if you would like to borrow a book.

— Donna Greenbaum

Membership

Ring 76 has over 80 members for the 2010-11 year. That is absolutely amazing!! Donna Greenbaum will bring the membership roster to the September meeting. Please be sure to check it and correct your information. Also, bring your IBM membership number so it can be added to your information. Donna will have IBM membership applications at the meeting

Ring 76 2010-11 Calendar

Sep 13*	Classic Magic
Oct 11*	Halloween Magic
Nov 08	Auction Night
Dec 13	Holiday Banquet
Dec 14	Lecture
Jan 10*	Open Stage Night
Feb 14*	Close-up Competition
Mar 14	Swap Meet
Apr 11*	Animal Theme Magic
May 09*	Stage Competition
Jun 13	Lecture and Elections
Jul 10	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

should you need to join. You can also email your information to dmgreenie@yahoo.com.

— Donna Greenburg

Dear Igor

If you have any topics you would like brought up at a Board Meeting, or discussed in this column of the newsletter, please email your queries to Igor@Ring76.com. If you prefer, you may remain anonymous.

An interesting topic was discussed at the August Board Meeting: enhancing the public profile of Ring 76. An obvious way in which a ring can enhance its public profile is to put on shows at public events. If such shows were performed without charge (or at a nominal charge), they would be both a public ser-

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vice, and an opportunity to for our amateur magicians to perform before new audiences.

But several of our “pros” have contacted Igor with concerns that “free shows” might undermine their professional gigs. Some pros cited actual cases in which their paid shows were cancelled because another Ring member offered to perform for free.

Igor is sympathetic to both the pros’ position, and also to the benefits of Ring 76 performing “public service” shows. But there seems to be a simple answer – *hospital shows*. Kenny Shelton organized a Ring 76 show at the Veterans’ Hospital on the eve of the Convention, and several of our Ring members participated. With more advance notice, we could also have performed at Children’s Hospital.

Igor suggests that Ring 76 perform several scheduled hospital shows each year. These shows would not compete with professional opportunities, but would be a valuable public service. But they should not be thrown together at the last minute. They should be scheduled, choreographed, and rehearsed. In short, professional caliber shows, which could be a proud hallmark of Ring 76!

Igor eagerly awaits your thoughts and comments.

Magic Notes

Have a performance coming up? An interesting tidbit that you’d like to share with the Ring76/ Tales of brave adventures in far away lands? The motto of The Magicurrents is “All the news that fits, we’ll print.” Please send any contributions to Editor@Ring76.com



Terry Lunceford will be performing at the Magic Castle behind the W.C. Fields Bar on October 29th and 30th.



There is a Gregory Wilson Lecture scheduled for September 28th at 7pm. The cost is \$20 and the location is at the BBB Building; 5050 Murphy Canyon

Rd., San Diego. Contact Syd Segal at 619-300-1344 or btl6380@aol.com to reserve a seat or for further information.



Magic-Con is going to happen again... and in SAN DIEGO! The conference will take place March 24-27, 2011 at the Double Tree Hotel in Mission Valley (Hazard Center). See www.magic-con.org for further information.



Do you want a Ring76.com e-mail address? You can have a new e-mail account set up or you can direct mail to an existing e-mail account (the Ring76.com address will be an alias.) Contact James Thayer at Webmage@Ring76.com.

