



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

AUGUST 2011

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On Sunday, July 10, Ring 76 kicked off 2011-12 with its annual Installation and Awards Banquet. The soiree was held at Bob Meigs' house in Solana Beach. The evening featured great – and ample - bar-b-que, catered by Bekker's West Coast Catering, followed by ceremonies an awards, and capped by a 'double barreled' show Lorenzo Clark and David Zibel.

Richard Ustick provided the tableware; Bob Meigs, the beverages and desserts; Joe Mystic, the sound system and chairs; and Belinda Keasler and Donna Greenbaum organized a very successful raffle..



Dues

Just a quick reminder that dues are now past due for your membership for Ring 76. The dues rate is \$30.00

You can pay at the August meeting, or mail your dues check, made out to **Ring 76**, to:

Richard Ustick,
Treasurer Ring 76
251 Thrasher Way
El Cajon, CA 92020

Everything ran very smoothly, and a good time was had by all.

The Awards portion of the banquet began with our contest winners. Winners of the close-up contest were: 3rd place, James Kellogg, III; 2nd place, Timmy Quatfini; and 1st place, new member Leo Sy. Winners of the stage competition were: 3rd place, Toni Perrine; 2nd place, Richard Ustick (the Man Who Beat Alakazam); and 1st place, Joe Mystic.

Mago Ruly won Entertainer of the Year, resulting from member voting on performance nights throughout the year, and Richard Ustick was named Member of the Year for his many contributions to the Ring. Congratulations to you both!!

We also gave special "Tip of the Hat" awards to Joel Moskowitz, for his many contributions to the newsletter, and James Thayer for editing the newsletter and maintaining our website. Jeff Marcus and JP Jackson both were made honorary Lifetime Members, for their long and varied service to the Ring and the magic community.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

EDITOR JAMES THAYER – EDITOR@RING76.COM



Recognition plaques were given to our outgoing board members, and the new board was sworn in by Territorial Vice President, Jeff Marcus. The new board consists of: President, Kenny Shelton; 1st Vice President, Syd Segal; 2nd Vice President, James Thayer; Treasurer, Richard Ustick; Secretary, Bob Meigs; Sgt.-at-Arms, Derek Ostovani; Members at Large, Donna Greenbaum, Sherry Luft, and Joe Mystic.

Our evening concluded with the wonderful comedy magic of Lorenzo Clark, and the prestidigitation of David Zibel.

— Bob Meigs

Upcoming Meetings

Our next two meetings feature new themes we hope will excite and inspire all of our members to perform.

For our August 8th meeting, we ask that you be ready to show us your "Second Favorite Trick". This isn't necessarily your "go to" routine, the closer that deserves standing ovations, or the act that will catapult you to Ring 76 fame, but a routine or trick that you like you may perform as your encore or opener to your first place masterpiece.

On September 12th, we will be featuring a "Random Performer Night". What exactly does this mean??? Well, every ring member in attendance at this meeting **MUST BE** prepared to show a routine or trick. As we enter for the meeting, your name will be placed into a bag and at random, names will be drawn to determine who will be performing that night. This is a great opportunity to get **EVERYONE** involved in our meetings, and hopefully encourage those not normally performing to perform. If you are interested in performing and do not want to risk your name not being drawn, we will still have sign ups for 5 or so members that evening. These particular members will go first, followed by the random drawing of names from our membership to finish out the night.

If you are interested in signing up for either of the next 2 meetings, please contact Syd at bt16380@aol.com or mention it to him at the meeting.

— Syd Segal

Are We There Yet?

Our quest for a permanent(?) home appears to be resolved. Things have worked out nicely at the Lions Club, and we are planning to stay put.

The good news with the Lion Club is that we have arranged access to the parking lot for our exclusive use on meeting nights. That should accommodate most, if not all of our members. And compared to the other options we considered, the price is right.

The not-so-good news with the other sites involved price in one case, parking in another, and the need to change our meeting night at both. So your Board is exploring the possibility of a long-term lease on both the Lions Club building and parking lot.

— Bob Meigs

Net Connections

Life on the Web with Bob Meigs

I spend much too much time surfing the Internet magic sites. For the benefit of those of you with a more interesting life, I'll pass on a few of the sites I've found, in case you like to visit them without the endless search.

First, my favorite site for learning about new and old magic apparatus is Andy Martins fabulous online gallery: <http://www.martinsmagic.com>

To find out what's up at the Castle: <http://www.magiccastle.com/>

The biggest magic discussion forums are the Magic Café: <http://www.themagiccafe.com/>

and Magic Talk <http://www.magictalkforum.com/>

(Continued on page 8)



Photos from the July Meeting



There was Food...



*Jeff Marcus is honored as
a Lifetime Member of Ring 76*



Magicians from the Stage Contest



Magicians from the Close-up Contest



Photos from the July Meeting



*Richard Ustick is honored
as Member-of-the-Year*



*Mago Ruby is
honored as Magi-
cian-of-the-Year*



*Joel
Moskowitz and James
Thayer are honored with a
Tip of the Hat for contri-
butions to the Newsletter
and Website*



The Outgoing Gang of Rascals, er, uh Board



Jeff Marcus swears in the new Board



Photos from the July Meeting



Lorenzo Clark Entertains and Amazes

Photos from the July Meeting



The Elegant Magic of David Zibel



Not for the faint of heart

"Tricks to Freak Out Your Friends"

by Pete Firman

*Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz M D
July 19, 2011*

A book for those wishing to make an impression on their audiences.

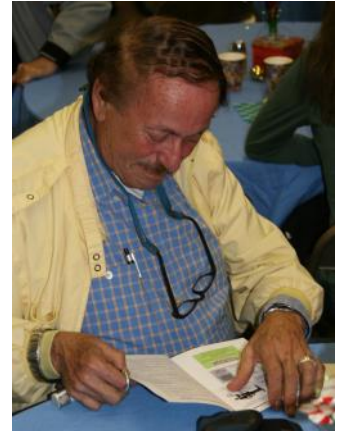
Derren Brown, magician extraordinaire of the UK, in his forward praises Pete Firman, whom he mentored, as a likeable magician. The essential ingredient is when your audience 'likes' you. Pete Firman is an eminently likeable comedic conjurer. In a prior review of the DVD "Secret World of Magic", I encountered and was entertained by Pete Firman. Those of us in the colonies often have difficulty appreciating the humor of our British compeers. Pete Firman's skills translates well.

Chicago Review Press has taken a risk, despite their disclaimer that Firman's book "Tricks to Freak out Your Friends" contains effects which maybe dangerous and that neither the publisher nor the author takes responsibility for misadventures in practicing or performing the marvels. Combining this with the author's guarantee that the reader will find tricks that will convince your audience that you sold your mother's soul to Lucifer, warrants standby legal counsel. This book should be kept out of the hands of children!

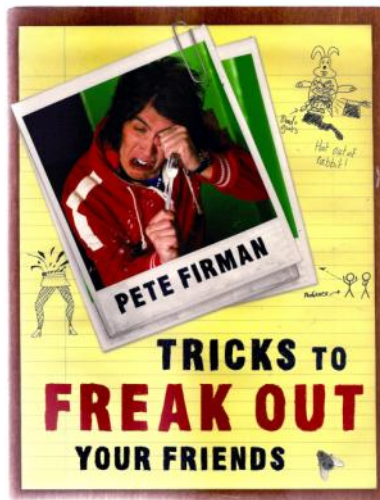
The 127 pp are divided into four sections: The first consisting of 'weird' stuff is entitled "My Parents are Cousins"; followed by Effects Best Performed in the Home (someone else's preferred); In a Venue Where Beer is Readily Available; and lastly Nauseating Mealtime Magic.

If your aim is to elicit 'gasps' 'wide eyed amazement' 'hilarity' 'revulsion which turns to laughter' this book is for you. Jam a skewer through your tongue or stick a

fork in your eyeball or crush a glass in your armpit - will revolt some and awe others. Pete Firman is not unfriendly with playing cards: he describes his technique for throwing cards at a window and the previously chosen card is miraculously on the other side of the window; he throws a cased deck in the air and the chosen card which was inserted in the middle of the deck prior to its casing, appears in the other hand; a production of four aces in a surprising way; in a display of inordinate strength you display your powers



(remember Annie Abbott); and (some would think it in bad taste) simulate giving yourself a brain aneurysm. There are many effects which depend on cigarettes, a pack of cigarettes, cigarette paper - these may not be American magician's repertoire - unhealthy practice that smoking is - but in only one effect, does the author actually invoke 'nicotine'. If you think only of cigarettes as props, you will enjoy these effects.



"Tricks to Freak Out Your Friends" is a paperbound colorful well edited source for magicians who want to spice up their act. Sight gags,

variations of classic card routines, constructs of having audiences imagine that you can do serious damage to various parts of your body and survive these mutilating maneuvers - done with a charming clown like motif can, if it fits your personality and you devote the necessary practice, will make your performance memorable and insure that you will be asked for more. A virtual small amount, \$14.95, will be a good investment. The book can be purchased from Independent Publishers Group

(www.ipgbook.com) Rx Rx Rx (3/5)

(Magic Links — Continued from page 2)

For window shopping, or those occasional purchases, the biggest online retailer is Hocus-Pocus <http://www.hocus-pocus.com>

Interesting auction sites include Magic Auction, <http://magicauction.com> which runs 24/7

Martinka: <http://www.martinka.com>

KT: <http://www.ktmagic.com>

and Quality Magic, <http://www.qualitymagic.com>, all of which have periodic auctions.

This month, I've had a special request for sites featuring automata, so here are a few:

<http://www.martinsmagic.com/?nd=ggs>

<http://blog.dugnorth.com/>

http://automatomania.co.uk/m_mstart/category/shop/

and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44UBXBIGmik&feature=related>.

Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

Aug 8	Your Second Favorite Trick*
Sept. 12	Randomly Selected Performers*
Oct. 10	Halloween Magic*
Nov. 14	Lecture
Dec. 13	Holiday Banquet
Jan. 9	Classic Magic (no card tricks)*
Feb. 13	Close-Up competition*
Mar. 12	Auction
Apr. 9	Teach-A-Trick Night
Apr 10	Lecture
May 14	Stage Competition*
June 11	Hi-Tech Magic*
July 8	Installation Banquet

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



You might also visit any of the above auction sites, Andy Martin's Magic Gallery, and eBay and type "automata" into the search box.

I'll be back with another half dozen or so sites next month, but if any of you have specific areas you'd like me to investigate, please contact me (Igor) at thehauntedhotel@sbcglobal.net

— Bob Meigs

All That Fits, We Print

Have you ever wanted to write about a convention you attended, a show that you saw, a fantastic prop? Do you have a show coming up that you'd like others to know about? Want to tell the tale of something interesting that happened to you while travelling? Want to blow off some steam about something that is bugging you in the world of magic?

Well, then, get off the couch and start writing! Contributions to the newsletter by members of Ring 76 are welcome. If you have any questions or contributions, please contact the Newsletter Editor at editor@Ring76.com

— James Thayer