

The Northwest Ring of Fire

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Secretary's Message

Greetings from your secretary, Craig Colombel. We will have a guest writer Ralph Huntzinger with abstracts from his blog. If you want more the link to his blog is at the end of the article. Again if you know of any magic events or performances or are performing yourself let me know and I will place it into the newsletter.

President's Message

A message from your President Master Payne

Greetings fellow club members.

It's May! A month that should be our official club month as it automatically brings to mind our club motto "This May or May Not Work".

What the heck, I'm President so I'm declaring May the Lynnwood Ring of Fire's May or May not Work Month. So throw caution to the wind and bring your most complicated or convoluted trick to the May meeting to see if indeed in May or May not Work. It'll be fun. There can be a lot to be learned from mistakes. If you never fail then you're not trying hard enough.

But enough with the platitudes.

I'd like to thank everyone who came out for the David Williamson Lecture. We had a great turn-out and a great deal of fun.

Our club also had a great showing at Kramien's Jamboree last week. I counted at least fifteen members in attendance, maybe more. Three of our membership entered the contests and took home four trophies.

Well two of them were actually from the Ring of Smoke, Logan Earle and Matthew Wells (who took second in Stage and won the Showmanship Award). Another club member (whose name escapes me) claimed the First Place in Close Up and the Elgin Fuller Comedy Award. There was also a Don Brisbane Memorial Award for Creativity which was won by BC Magician Henry Tom.

As you May or May not Know the Day of Magic has been postponed until next year. This is because of an interest in reviving the Tri-City Magic convention. This is a shared, floating convention that takes in Vancouver, Seattle and Victoria. It used to happen like clockwork. But in recent years due to conflicts with the PCAM it has gotten out of kilter. A committee comprised of members from all three clubs is being formed to make sure the event occurs every year from now on and the rotation maintained. The first one will be held in Vancouver this fall. November 5th 6th and 7th. We are responsible for mounting the Friday Night Show as a way of promoting our Day of Magic to be held sometime in 2011. If you're planning on going up to Vancouver for this gathering and want to be in the show let me know and I'll see if I can fit you in.

Again, thanks to everyone who went to the lectures, conventions and entered the contests. You have helped make our club the vibrant and outstanding club we are. See you at the meeting!

April 2010 Meeting:

Meetings will open with the business portion. After business we will have performances, lectures or teach a trick by one or more of the members and on some nights something special. Come and see what you are missing.

Business: Payne has had his booklet "Sometimes the Jokes are just for me" reviewed in the Linking Ring. It was reported that the "Day of Magic" has been postponed until next year, because there is an interest in reviving the Tri-City Magic convention. This is a shared convention between the cities of Vancouver, BC, Canada, Victoria, BC Canada, and Seattle, WA, USA. It used to happen but over time and conflicts with PCAM it died out. There is a request for volunteers to serve on a committee comprised of members from all three clubs to make sure the event occurs every year. This committee will not run the convention but ensure that the event occurs, volunteer and contribute to magic.

There was a report that there are plans that in 2012 PCAM will return to Seattle. If it happens they will need volunteers to help.

Ralph Huntzinger reported on his work on the club's participation in the "Lynnwood Lights". He is looking at having three different sub committees or groups at the Lynnwood Lights. The committees will be Information, Platform Show and Walk Around. Information will staff a booth to give information on the club, the Platform show will work and produce a stage show and Walk Around will do walk around magic. This is to get more members involved with the Lynnwood Lights.

It was discussed and agreed to that the club will put together effects from the members for the IBM Linking Ring Parade. If you have something you would like to have published in the parade contact one of the club's officers.

Product Review by Payne: He reviewed/showed an effect called "Jolly Rodger Rumble" This is a miss-made flag routine using a Pirate flag that comes with a music CD by Tim Sonfelt. Payne was designing his own set for his library show and gave permission for Tim to make a set. Jolly Rodger Rumble can be found at www.wonderimagery.com You can also order custom printed silks.

Brian reported on a new Chance Wolf product that Brian produced the demo video for. The product is a coin wand that replaces the coin with a sponge ball. This can be found at www.wolfsmagic.com.

Lecture:

Ralph Huntzinger gave a lecture on a piece of apparatus originally called a "pagoda", now known to magicians as the "Square Circle". He had some demonstration models and showed variations of the Square Circle concept using black art. We were informed that the Square Circle has been many sizes including stage size for producing a person. He also gave some hints on black art. Some of it was about lighting and if you make your own, the type of material to use.

Performances: Lance Campbell performed a mentalist routine where he asked someone to think of a person from the past, someone else to think of a candy and someone else to draw a picture. In all three cases he determined the answers by reading their minds.

Payne performed a routine. He had a person read a menu and pick a food item from the menu, he then determined what the food item was. It was the commercial effect "Food for Thought"

Remember come to the meetings and see and learn magic. Also enjoy great company and do a trick. The meetings are a great place to practice that new routine. Here you can goof and learn.

The Club's unofficial motto is: "This may or may not work"

After

After the performances the meeting was adjourned and those that wanted to went to Maddox's for refreshments.

If anyone wants to add to the meeting notes send to me and I will add in the next newsletter. Also if I cannot make a meeting it would be good if someone could take notes and send them to me. My email address is at the bottom of each page of the newsletter.

Magic Reviews

Payne has graciously donated some reviews of magic, he did for MUM Magazine. I will print one or two per newsletter issue.

SLR Souvenir Linking Rubberbands

Paul Harris

Perfectly Linked Rubber Bands

Available From <http://www.murphymagic.com> \$35.00

Reviewed by Payne

The DVD instructions for this trick have Joe Russell teaching a version of a Dan Harlan effect using a set of rubber bands made by Todd Plaster. Where exactly Paul Harris fits into all this I am not exactly sure. All I know is that the hard work and collaboration of the aforesaid mentioned folk has finally given us one of the Holy Grails of magic -- a set of linked rubber bands.

Ever since Stephen Perry first patented the rubber band in 1845 magicians have been searching for the perfect way to construct a set of permanently linked loops. Various methods have been tried with little success. Most involved cutting a band and then trying to imperceptively rejoin the severed ends. Glues, heat and various solvents have all been employed in the vain attempt to restore the severed band back to a pristine whole. Needless to say all of these techniques have had a less than satisfactory result. There was always a bump or a tell of some sort at the join. Plus this join was always the weak link in the whole affair, tending to break open at that most inopportune moment -- never in practice, always in performance.

But those sad days are all behind us now as these new Paul Harris SLR bands are nearly perfect. There are no perceptible joins or suspicious bumps in the bands, at least in the set I received. They also stood up to thorough stretching examination without breaking or belying the fact that they are not actually bands made of rubber -- Some other elastic medium is used in the creation of these miraculous loops. Even though the instructional DVD tells you to make up a set of practice bands as the performance bands won't hold up to extended use after several days of playing with the same set of linked loops I have yet to experience a catastrophic failure. The DVD also warns that these bands are susceptible to heat and to cool them down in ones refrigerator before using them, especially if they've been left out in the sun or been in the back of a hot vehicle for any length of time. Living as I do in the ever temperate Pacific Northwest I have not been able to put this particular aspect of these bands to the test. Just be-fore warned that you might suffer the occasional failure if you happen to live in a toastier clime like Phoenix or Las Vegas and have failed to chill your loops.

The bands too are thicker than your average rubber band. This has led to some complaints from magicians on the various magic related internet boards I prowl. But I really don't think that this is a problem as no one I have shown this trick to have questioned the provenance of the bands or thought them to be anything but regular yet somehow magically linked rubber bands.

You receive 20 linked sets of bands and 10 singles with the DVD and refill packs of 20 linked and 10 linked are available for \$12.99 easily making these very affordable to give out after. Thus the name Souvenir Linking Rubberbands. The bands arrive covered in a white powder. The powder acts as a preservative I am told and it is easily rubbed or washed off. The bands also feel a little gummier than your typical rubber band but again I don't think your average spectator is going to question this as well.

The DVD teaches a fine three phase routine heavily based on Dan Harlan's Linking Rubber Bands. There is a bit of setup to get into but the Mr. Russell shows us how to imperceptively get into it. Several switches are taught as well as Arthur Sedington's Crazy Mans Handcuffs.

So if you do or are thinking of adding or enhancing a linked rubber band routine to your magic repertoire this is the time to do so as you'll never find a better set of examinable linked rubber bands that you can give out as a keepsake than the SLR Souvenir Linking Rubber Bands.

Zinger's Thoughts – Ralph Huntzinger Blog

Each Month I will give a brief report of items of interest from Ralph Huntzinger blog. I will give a brief review of his musings and if you want to read the rest you can find it at

<http://magickhappens.com/wp/>

This month we will cover his thoughts on developing his Boulder City show.

He gives his thoughts on what makes a good show. There are three parts to a show.

The First Act or Acts- "First Act has at least five or six functions and runs from getting people in and settled into their seats, grabbing their attention, convincing them they will be entertained if they stay, building an audience-group-performer dynamic, letting them know what the show is about, and arrives at letting them have their first big relaxation."

The Closing Act – The climax of the show, this may not be the highlight but wraps things up and ends the show.

The Sustaining Acts – This is the middle of the show, this is where the entertainment happens.

The first act set the mood of the show and the closing act wraps it up, but the sustaining acts are where the substance is and must be to prevent the feeling of empty calories.

His Boulder City Show will consist of thirteen grouped functions, modules or pieces.

I am not going to go any further if you want to learn more go to his blog site

<http://magickhappens.com/wp/>

Reports on the Members

Lance Campbell will be performing at the "Four Seasons Manele Bay" in Lanai, Hawaii. This will be in April, it is a private event sponsored by an Pharmaceutical company.

If you are performing let me know and I will put into the newsletter.