

The Northwest Ring of Fire

March 2012

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Secretary's Message

Greetings from your secretary, Craig Colombel. If you know of any magic events or performances or are performing yourself let me know and I will place it into the newsletter. If you want to see your name in print write up something with a magic theme, send it to me and I will place it in the newsletter.

President's Message

A message from your President Jeff Dial

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012

May – “It’s in Print” – Perform a trick that you learned from a book, magazine, lecture notes, etc. (No cheating and watching it on video.)

June – Dai Vernon Night – Tricks involving cutting and slicing. Performance and workshop.

July – “Déjà vu Night” – The same effect all night long. A chance to see and perform the same trick. (We will all agree on the effect.) Performance and workshop.

August – “Fred Sanford Night” – Bring your worst magic purchase and perform it. Workshop TBD.

September – John Ramsey Night – Tricks with food, groceries, and all things supermarket. Workshop TBD.

October – Theodore Annemann Night – Mentalism and things bizarre. Workshop TBD

November – “Some Assembly Required” – Show and Tell tricks you needed to put together, find parts for, or build. Or just an unusual prop you’d like to show off.

December – “I’ve Never Really Done this Kind of Thing Before.” – You’ve had all year to get ready, now do something you’ve wanted to do, but never have.

Make sure to check the website for upcoming events and lectures.
<http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html>

Looking forward to a great year.

April 2012 Meeting:

The Theme for the night was "Larry Jennings Night, Tricks with Water"

Ralph Huntzinger started with a story about when he performs someone usually ask if he would do a card trick. He said he shudders at the thought of tricks instead of entertaining. Took out a blue deck of cards ask the spectator to think of a card, showed that all the cards had "Xs" on their backs, when the thought of card was found it had "This is your Card" written on the front and the back was red.

Brian Melicher had two volunteers come up and he had a clipboard with five cards on it. He then showed a picture to the first volunteer and had that person pick from the five cards which best match the picture. He then repeated with the second person. When they revealed their choices, we found out that they both look at the same picture but saw it different.

Mark Paulson took a bottle of water and heated it with a match, then drank from the bottle and blew out smoke from his mouth. He followed with a break and restore credit card.

Joy, a member of Ralph's troupe, brought an effect that she was working on for input from the club. She performed the Vicarious Cocktail. This is an effect where after pouring out a drink it drinks itself. It was her first time performing the effect and received much help from the club members. We are looking forward to a repeat of the effect at another meeting.

Danny Dragon brought out a portable bar, with the fixings to make a martini. This included a bar rag, vodka, vermouth, martini glasses, a jigger and olives. He placed a olive in the jigger and then took it out and placed in his pocket. He offered to make the volunteer a martini, if the volunteer could catch him placing the olive back into the jigger. As you may guess, the olive magically kept returning to the glass. Danny then added vodka and vermouth to the jigger and the jigger vanished.

Payne brought in a couple of items for "Show and Tell". The first item was a wooden box, inside the box was three rings, one ring with a ruby, one with a emerald and one with a diamond. Payne turn his back and had a volunteer remove one of the rings and place it back into the box. When Payne turn back around he was able to tell which ring had been remove. The second item was a card duck that Payne had rebuilt to be a steampunk duck. This was for his library shows that are base on the movie "Hugo".

Come to a meeting and see what you are missing, show off your skills and learn how to be a better magician.

Remember magic is a performing art and one place to perform in a safe place is at the club.

The club motto is "This may or may not work" Come and have fun.

As you can see dear reader there was a lot of magic at the last meeting. Come and see what you are missing.

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"

We also have a great library that everyone should take advantage of.

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. My email address is at the bottom of each page of the newsletter.

Once again Payne has been willing to share his reviews he writes for MUM. Thank you Payne for your generosity.

Up the Ante

by Martyn Smith

Card Trick

Pamphlet 12 pages 8.25 X 5.75 Stapled

Available from the Merchant of Magic

<http://www.magicshop.co.uk>

Price £9.99

So here's the effect. A spectator is invited to freely cut and shuffle a deck of cards. The magician, who never touches the deck throughout the entire routine, instructs the audience member to deal two cards face down on the table. He then asks them what the odds would be for this pair of cards to contain one red and one black card and whether they would be willing to make a small wager upon the matter.

A wager is agreed upon but to sweeten the deal the magician has the spectator deal two more pairs of cards face down upon the table.

The ante now is upped (hence the name of this effect) when the magician wagers that these two new pairs also contain one red and one black card.

Throwing caution to the wind the magician now has the spectator deal three more pairs of cards face down upon the table and proceeds to stun everyone with the declaration that these three pairs too consist of one red and one black card and ups the ante once again.

Throwing caution (once again?) to the wind, and to mix things up a bit the magician now tells the spectator to deal out three sets of cards each containing four cards each. To everyone's disbelief the magician then proclaims that these three packets will not only contain two red/black pairs but these pairs will be made up of one of each suit – One Club, one Heart, one Spade and one Diamond. The ante of course is raised to meet this new improbable claim.

As a quick "side bet" two more cards are dealt out which, the magician assures us, will also be a red black pair.

Even though the pot now is of a most prodigious size the magician needlessly tempts the fates and has the spectator deal thirteen cards face down on the table.

A thousand pounds (this is an English publication after all) is now bet that this pile of thirteen cards will contain, not in any particular order, one card of each value Ace through King.

But wait, there's more. The magician also bets an additional thousand pounds that the thirteen cards remaining in the spectators hands will also contain a random run of A, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, J, Q, K.

Impossible you say? Well let's find out. The seven two card piles are at long last turned over to reveal that yes; they are indeed comprised of red and black pairs. Next those three piles of four you'd nearly forgotten about are flipped over and, just as predicted, they contain not only two pairs of red and black cards but are also comprised of one card from each suit.

Now the first pile of thirteen cards is delved into and, to everyone's amazement, it contains one card of each value. But surely the magicians luck can't hold. Those last thirteen cards can't possibly contain a perfect yet random run of thirteen cards. But indeed it does. It has all come out precisely as the magician had said it would.

Amazing but true, and, as the instructions proclaim, "If you did not possess a reputation as a card-sharp before this routine, you certainly will at the end."

However the author fails to tell you exactly how you will gain this reputation as a card-shard since at no time during this effect do you ever handle the deck of cards. Thus, since you've not given your audience an opportunity to postulate that you were somehow able to deal the cards out in the proscribed manner through a series of clever yet invisible manipulations, they are left with little alternative but to ascribe the tedious series of events they were just forced to sit through as a mathematical card trick. Which indeed it is and as is the case of many mathematical card effects it suffers from an inordinate amount of counting and needless pile making. It also requires a stacked deck and a fair amount of real estate as you have eleven or twelve piles of cards laid out on the table at the conclusion of the trick making this a completely impractical effect for the walk around or restaurant worker.

While it is self working and there are no angles to worry about the reset requires the entire deck to be manually restacked. It can be done with your typical CHaSeD stack so it can be done as a finale piece to a number of stacked deck routines. The pamphlet contains the one routine, an explanation of how and why it works and a couple of different stacks you can use. This makes it a pricey routine for the fifteen or twenty dollars it's going to cost you at your average magic shop here in the States. After reading the routine and trying it out for some magic and non magic friends (my magic club gave it a 2) I was left with the impression that this was more suited for release in the trick section of a magic magazine than it was as a dealers item.

As a reviewer I really do not like to label magic tricks as good or bad. I understand that what one might think to be lame and unworkable effect another might see pure performance gold. I unfortunately see no gold here. It's the type of trick you might perform a couple of times for your friends and then chuck it in the bottom of your magic drawer. There to languish forgotten until it ends up on your table at the next magic swap meet.

For me it fails as a gambling demonstration. As I already pointed out since you don't handle the cards you're not displaying any type of card dealing dexterity. The cards end up in red and black pairs. I know of no gambling game where this would be an advantage. One would think a true gambling routine would be composed of dealing out series' of cards that would be of use in a game of chance. This routine simply doesn't work for me, or anyone I've shown it to so far. But as I said before, what one might find lame, another finds gold. After showing this routine to a magic friend he pointed me to an older version of the trick with a better presentation performed by Lennart Green called The Dragon's Pearl (available on his Green Light DVD). Mr. Smith mentions on several online forums that he was unaware of Mr. Green's earlier version and stopped production and release of his product until he obtained permission from him to proceed. Curiously however there is no thanks' or attribution to Mr. Green anywhere in this thinpamphlet. So, if you want to perform "The Dragon's Pearl" for half the price of what it would cost you on Lennart Green's DVD then go ahead and purchase "Up the Ante". However if you want a great self working mathematical card trick with a gambling theme there are probably much better ones out there.

EXTRAS

Some info about Monday Night Magic, a great venue to get your flight time in magic:

The April show is wide open.

The May show will feature a special guest - the author of Gift Magic and Transformations and the Associate Dean of the Magic and Mystery School, Dr Larry Hass. Larry will be town to lecture that week too.

Remember if you want flight time at the longest running magic show in the PNW, click reply and get on the boards.

All the best

Fredrick

If you want to perform at Monday Night Magic contact Fredrick at fredrick@blarg.net

Our own Master Payne has video lectures on the Magical Wisdom website. Go to the link below to see them with other good lectures on magic.

http://www.magicalwisdom.com/infopages/view/mm_talks

Bruce Meyers is performing at "Club Hollywood" at 16716 Aurora Ave N in Shoreline. He will be performing on May 18th and again on June 15th flyer below.

The Award Winning
Magic & Comedy of

Bruce Meyers

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Reservations: (206) 546-4444 • BruceMeyers.com

