

The Northwest Ring of Fire

Volume 2, Issue 11

February 2013

Words from the Secretary

Craig Colombel

Secretary 2013 – accolombelzipcon.com

Greetings from your secretary, Craig Colombel. We are looking for writers for the newsletter. Anything on your thoughts on magic, any performances you are doing, or conventions you have been to. See yourself in print. Send the articles to accolombel@zipcon.com.

President's Message

Jeff Dial -President 2013

Greeting Fellow Conjurers,

Once more I will be absent from our gathering this month. Thank you to all who stepped up the last two months to make the meetings what they were. Who knows the club may be completely changed by the time I get back in May.

This month's theme is **Backwards and Forwards – Tricks using the Gilbreath Principle**. I was planning a talk and demonstration on the Gilbreath Principle to help spur your enthusiasm, but it with the emergency it was not to be. I had a Power Point presentation all ready that was a thing of terrifying beauty, but it will be for another time. However, Phil Reda will be doing a teach-in this month and I am sure the faithful will have perfected their riffle shuffles as well. Sorry to miss it, but it is time to visit grandchildren.

In May our theme is **Not Playing with a Full Deck – packet tricks and effects that require less than a full deck of 52**. As you prepare, consider how to make it visible and play to the whole room.

I have recently become a member of the Conjuring Arts Research Center. It is a great resource and if you are at all interested in the history of magic they produce a scholarly journal that comes out twice a year. The latest issue is their biggest and is the translation of a manuscript dated between 1670 and 1730. It has only recently come to light and contains card moves thought to have been invented 150 years later. *"Here we find the earliest known descriptions of a sleight-of-hand color change and the under-the-spread force. In addition, there are unique effects described that would otherwise have been lost, as well as early precursors to now-classic effects."* Check out their website at:

<http://conjuringarts.org/>

If you've never been to a magic convention consider attending the 3 of Clubs Weekend in Vancouver, BC. The NWRP will be entertaining in the Friday evening show. If you think you will be attending and might want to be in the show, contact me. The web site for registration is:

<http://www.ibmring92.com/tri-city-convention/index.php>

and the Facebook page is:

http://www.facebook.com/#!/events/485766131446772/553702524653132/?notif_t=plan_mall_activity

That's all for now,

Jeff

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March 2013 MEETING

March Meeting Theme was "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner". Magic at the dinner table or when you are out at restaurant.

Ralph Huntzinger discussed that dinner magic is part of close-up magic and uses the close-up area. He talked about doing dinner with his brother and his brother's kids and grandkids. The magic is done surrounded so he picks tricks that can be done surrounded. He starts small with pennies and dimes to get their attention and to also introduce the coins. Then he proceeded to push a coin through the napkin, then a knife through the napkin and without leaving a hole in the napkin. He then used the napkin to vanish a salt shaker, while trying to vanish a coin and then performed coins across. Each trick leads into the next one.

Jeff Simmons had three coffee cups and three coins (dollar, quarter and nickel) covered the coins with the cups and had a spectator remember one of the cups and switch the other two. He then had switched again any 2 cups he wished and then one more time he switched cups. The magician then turned around and picks the one cup that was chosen at the beginning.

Mark Paulson performed a zombie routine with a dinner roll and napkin. It was a funny routine and at the end he ate the dinner roll.

Danny Dragon performs migrating silverware using plastic ware the routine was based on the piano trick variation.

Mark Paulson then performed a short trick smoking his thumb and blowing out white smoke after which he said there is a new Pope.

Payne then showed us something that he sought the Castle. It was a spelling trick using the deck of cards as he turned each card over he spelled the name of each card in order. This order went from the ace to the King. The trick used a stack deck.

Payne then demonstrated the piano trick and then explained how it worked. He then did a prediction trick using the piano method and faced up cards. He then repeated the trick with facedown cards and having the spectator pick the matching card.

Danny Dragon then came up to workshop something he is working on for "Monday Magic". He talked about his grandfather who was a professional magician and showed his favor trick. It used paperback a whiskey bottle and a deck of cards. He had the whiskey bottle placed into the bag; the bag was sealed, and given to another spectator to hold. The first spectator then picked a card the card vanished from the deck and when the bag was open the card was inside the whiskey bottle. He did mention that producing an empty whiskey bottle was his grandfather's favorite part of the trick.

Leo then performed a routine in which the spectator plays the magician. Using a deck of cards the magician instructs the spectator what to do. This routine use two spectators one being the magician and the other being the volunteer. After performing the routine he asked for advice on how to make the routine better.

Continue at top of page.

If anyone wants to add to the meeting notes send to me and I will add in the next newsletter.

My email is at the bottom of the newsletter and in the secretary's message box.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013 NWRP Meeting Themes

April - **Backwards and Forwards** – Tricks using the Gilbreath Principle

May – **Not Playing with a Full Deck** – packet tricks and effects that require less than a full deck of 52.

June – **Prop-Position Me** – Show and tell night. Bring a prop with you are particularly enamored, perform or demonstrate it. **Lesson** – One ahead principle.

July – **One is the Loneliest Number** – Tricks using one ahead Principle.

August – **You've Got Mail** – Effects with envelopes, stamps, mail boxes, etc.

September – **Make a Beautiful Noise** – Magic set to music.

October – **I'm Not Dead Yet** – Themed magic around life, death, and the undead.

November – **Why Don't You Just Read the Directions?** – Effects requiring the spectator(s) to follow your directions. **Lesson** – False calls, multiple outs, redefining what happened.

December – **Liar, Lair, Pants on Fire** – Application of false calls, multiple outs, and redefining.

Make sure to check the website for upcoming events and lectures.

[HTTP://WWW.NWRINGOFFIRE.COM/INDEX.HTML](http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html)

Reviews by Payne

Food for Thought

Devin Knight

Mental Magic with Plates

\$20.00

The Art of Sean Scott

<http://www.theartofsean-scott.com>

While far too prop heavy to be considered proper mentalism Devin Knight's "Food for Thought" is a clever bit of mental magic that will, and has, fooled even those in the know. The effect is both straight forward and full of immense entertainment potential.

Two disposable banquet plates are shown to a randomly selected spectator who verifies that they are both quite ordinary and opaque. A menu sheet from a greasy spoon restaurant is brought out. The spectator is asked to mentally choose one of the fifteen foods listed on the menu and then, while the performers back is turned, to write their selection on a 3 x 5 index card that the magician has just handed them. The spectator does as they are told and after they finish writing their chosen food upon the card it is then sandwiched face down between the two plates the magician is holding behind his back. The magician then turns and hands the stack of two plates to the spectator and has them hold them up on an outstretched hand. They are now told to try and visualize the food they chose sitting on the plates they are holding. The magician then stares intently into the spectators eyes and without saying a word picks up the pen quickly scribbles down a word on a second card and places it face down on the uppermost plate that the spectator is holding. The magician now takes the plates from and separates them. He hands the one with his prediction on it to the spectator while taking for himself the plate with the spectator's prediction. The magician then lifts the spectator's prediction off of the plate and shows it to say HAM. The spectator then reveals that the magician also wrote HAM on his card. A perfect match – every time! It doesn't get much more straight forward and confounding than that.

Be assured that there are no forces, impression pads, pre-show work or prompting. Whatever food the randomly selected spectator freely chooses off the list is the exact same food the magician writes on the card. In fact you don't even have to use the supplied Greasy Spoon Menu. Any list or menu can be employed. I myself am going to use this method for a trick I've been having bounce around in the back of my head for several years where I divine a dish freely selected from that Mother of all Menus, The Cheesecake Factory. In fact you're not limited to food either. Any word written on the card between the plates can be easily and undetectably discerned. It's just that without the food motif one would have a hard time justifying the use of the plates. But it could be done.

While the basic routine does not require a force Mr. Knight has set this routine up for a kicker ending in which the chosen food is revealed on a secondary item that has been in full view the entire time. This ending does require a subtle psychological force to be employed which isn't 100% dependable. Mr. Knight however claims he has a very high hit rate with this force allowing him to end with the kicker ending more times than not.

Reviews by Payne

However since the routine is constructed properly if you miss the force the audience in none the wiser and the routine ends with just the selection being discerned through unknown mental means but not prognosticated.

Reset is instantaneous and if you refrain from using the kicker ending the feat could be repeated. Though why would wish to do so is beyond my limited understanding. The angles are good. You just don't want anyone standing directly beside you and you require a normal amount of light to do this. Dim or atmospheric lighting might make this a tad difficult to do. Nothing worse than squinting to try and read the word you're supposed to be accessing through supernatural means. You receive the two plates, a set of very informative and clearly written instructions, a smattering of 3 x 5 cards and a preprinted word list from a Greasy Spoon Restaurant. You might wish to reprint the wordlist yourself to make it look a little less abstemious and a bit more friendly and appealing. But that's my personal aesthetic talking.

Food for Thought is a very workable real world bit of mental magic that is full of potentially perplexing possibilities. It is something I'll be adding to my repertoire.

MAGICAL HAPPENINGS

That's Impossible

Tim Flynn is looking for performers, If interested contact Tim at 206-290-7767 or on Facebook at notification+khiuhkim@facebookmail.com

Magic Mondays at Third Place Books in Ravenna.

April: performing is

Hugh Castell

Evan Reynolds

Mark Paulson

Remember if you want flight time at the longest running magic show in the PNW contact Mark Paulson at mark2061@yahoo.com

Reports from the “Ring of Smoke” the youth group associated with our club. Everyone should make a try to attend one of their meetings. A great group of young magicians.

Ring of Smoke Report

By Marty and Ben Eskenazi

The Ring of Smoke meeting on April 7 was very well attended, in anticipation of the upcoming Mystic Pasta event, on April 21st at 4pm at Shawn O'Donnell's. Bruce returned from the Big Island of Hawaii and facilitated the jamming and discussion. The kids talked about their plans for performances as well as close up magic for Mystic Pasta, an annual event that sells out. In keeping up with the performance theme, Elliott Hoffert worked on his great ball routine and announced his special benefit performance on Friday, May 10 at 7pm at Brodniak Hall at Anacortes Hight School. The Illusions Show will be a very entertaining event for all who can make it. Billy and Brianna also make it down from Canada and did a great job sharing magic and ideas, including Dai Vernon's Trick that Can't be Explained. Billy and Brianna will also be headlining a show called "An Evening of Magic" as a benefit to help send a kid to camp (www.eveningofmagic.ca) on May 25 at the Evergreen Cultural Center, at 1205 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam, starting at 6pm.

Ben and Marty

Notes to Self

Principle of Conservation

By Phil Reda

I have decided to call this column “Notes to Self “. It allows me to journal my exploration into the classics and to help me understand better the concepts presented. I hope you might find my ramblings of interest.

Currently I am reading two books side by side.

“Magic and Showmanship” and “Our Magic” both classics on the Art in Magic. Notice I said in and not Of – very big distinction and a very thought provoking topic.

This month I am going to refer to Magic and Showmanship ,Chapter One page 15. There is a very brief description of - The Principle of Conservation.

“The Japanese define an artist as one who has the ability to do more and the will to refrain. This definition covers showmanship as well.

Showmanship adds glamor and drama. However, if we try to give any routine more importance than it will bear, we destroy the illusion and may reveal the secret. (I underlined the last sentence)

This really struck a cord with me. To paraphrase the above – “Sometimes Less is More”. In mentalism missing a prediction can actually strengthen the overall effect. In a magic routine lets look at the “Floating Dollar “ :

1. The magician lays a dollar bill on his/her out stretched hand. After a a few moments of deep concentration the bill just slightly twitches then stops – a few moments later it slowly rises maybe an inch or two for only a few seconds then falls back to hand.

Or

The magician lays a dollar bill on his/her hand. The bill floats up – the magician waves his/her hands all around the bill – it floats up and down from hand to hand. Finally after 5 minutes the bill floats back down to the hand.

Which do you think would be more mystifying?

Now let's watch a couple of video examples. Here are two “linking Ring” routines that I think provide a good contrast :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di4Xxl3BzqQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kV7kPOMCqc>

Continue next page:

Which do you find more entertaining? Which one shows the Principle of Conservation? In the one video how do you think the spectators felt? (This is a good example of why spectators are reluctant to assist)

Here is one more video for you to watch. Hummers floating Card. This clip shows good and bad together. The question is how would you apply the "Principle of Conservation" to this demo?

Now re-read this before watching: *However, if we try to give any routine more importance than it will bear, we destroy the illusion and may reveal the secret.*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqKKaZ_TAHQ

Please do not think I am trashing other performers – all I am doing is trying to illustrate the difference and hopefully improve my own performance.

Sometimes more is less!

Musings by Ralph Huntzinger "Zinger, the Magick"

Ralph Huntzinger is kind enough to share a work in progress from his blog site. Below is an extract from the site on Dinner Magic. It is still a work in progress to read the whole writing and his other articles please go to

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

I generally leave the performing of close-up effects and the entertainment of children to folks who do those well. However, I had a week long visiting of nieces, nephews, and their children where I would spend a day and dinner with each family and needed to perform for them. My father's brother, another Ralph, had lived in the area so to distinguish "which Ralph", my family title had become "Magic Uncle Ralph" which obviously required that I do magic on the visit. Here are the sets that I developed and some thinking behind them.

When developing any routines or sets several questions have to be answered: "Why doing this, what kind of mood desired, age and interest of audience, how short or long is the performance, and what sort of interaction is desired." I've also found it helpful to figure out "What does this lead into, how does this finish, or how do I get out of this?" These vary for each occasion but you do need to answer them beforehand in order to create better performances.....

Basic Set: 1) produce coin somehow and exchange for larger coin, 2) Napkin routine — Coin Through Napkin, Knife Through Napkin, Salt Shaker Through Table, and 3) "Hole in Hand" coins through hand. Additional Effects in case I needed them: 1) Cards — simple effect, spelling card effect, 2) Rope — "Shepherd's Rope", "Hunter's Knot". Teaching "French Drop" as an ending. *John Scarne's 1951 "Scarne's Magic Tricks" has good illustrations and explanation, most of the illustrations used here are from that book.*

I started with a simple "Penny to Dime" because it focused attention on only the youngest of the children sitting around the table and it was very intimate. I subtly moved the children to sit mostly to my left and the parents sitting across the table; this made it convenient for everyone to eventually move closer and remove the table as a barrier to their closeness. My Penny to Dime routine stresses "... attention and focus on dime regardless of what else happens around you" which quiets everyone down. When the dime is finally in the hand of the child, I then enlarge the performing space and include more people

Continue on next page

. Coins need to be large enough that all the audience can see them, so I quickly introduce the four silver dollars I need in the “coins thru hand” ending routine and make sure the dime stays with the person who did that magic. I use a piece of reindeer horn (“nubbin”) instead of a bland and gimmicky looking plastic thing; the gimmick needs to look “magical”, interesting, and not gimmick-ed. Although vanishing a coin and then finding it behind a child’s ear is guaranteed to work, it was a little too “amateurish” and I wanted to teach a coin vanish at the end. Teaching a move that closely resembles something done in the performance might lessen the effect of what you did; teaching a move that could have been used, but wasn’t, reinforced the notion that magic involves skill and anyone can slowly learn the skill if they want to apply themselves.

Card Effects

I actually enjoy the mental challenge of determining how and appreciate the skill needed to perform card effects. However, I find watching more than three card effects extremely boring; that’s probably why I don’t personally perform them. People enjoy card effects but get quickly saturated unless they are presented very very well. Children also don’t enjoy cards as much as adults do — and they are quick to demonstrate their boredom. I recommend you thoroughly examine why you present what you do, what the overall effect on the audience actually is, and then limit cards to two or three effects.

Rope Effect

I moved to the cut and restored rope effect mainly because it was developed in the ’80s for my nieces and nephews and therefore connects the kids to the parents. Since it is a story and all actions are performed as the story unfolds I find it holds the interest of children and adults, I actually open theatrical performances with it.

Napkin Thoughts

The core of the evening’s entertainment consisted of the three effects using a napkin. Choice of napkins is very important since the napkin has to be big enough to allow the Knife Through Napkin effect to be done surrounded but small enough to not overshadow the coins in Coin Through Napkin. The napkin needs to be strong enough that it does not accidentally tear; it also needs to conform to and keep the shape of the salt shaker. If you are using paper napkins, a “Paper Rose” twisting might cement the innocence of the napkins; however, it might detract from the build that you are attempting — if you add a rose, I recommend it is done at the very beginning before the “Penny to Dime” where it won’t sidetrack the structure of the sets.

To read the complete articles please go to

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

Family Entertainers Workshop

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Saturday April 27, 2013

7:30 - 9:00	Registration: Pick Up Notebook & Magic Store Open 7:30 AM-10 PM	
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome and Introductions	
9:00 - 10:00	Entertaining Pre-Schoolers	Dave Risley
10:30 - 11:30	Performing for Birthday Parties	DJ Ehlert
11:30 - 12:30	Family Fun Shows	Steve Kissell
12:30 - 2:00	Lunch with a new friend	
2:00 - 3:00	Educational Table Sessions: Hands On	STEVE / DAVE / DJ
3:00 - 4:00	Twisting for Cash	DJ Ehlert
4:00 - 5:00	Creating Theme Shows	Dave Risley
5:00 - 6:00	Q & A: Networking	
6:00 - 8:00	Dinner on Your Own	
8:00 - 9:00	Hilarious Staff Show	
9:00 - 10:00	Magician Feud	Mike Norden and Gord Boyes

Sunday April 28, 2013

7:30 - 9:00	Registration & Magic Store Open 7:30 AM-9:00 PM	
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome and Introductions	
9:00 - 10:00	Performing for Young Children	Dave Risley
10:30 - 11:30	50 Performance Tips for Entertainers	Steve Kissell
11:30 - 12:30	Capturing the Corporate Market	DJ Ehlert
12:30 - 2:00	Lunch on your own with an old friend	
2:00 - 3:00	Educational Table Sessions: Hands On	STEVE / DAVE / DJ
3:00 - 4:00	Storytelling With Puppets	Dave Risley
4:30 - 5:30	Student Performance & Critique	Participants
5:00 - 6:00	Q & A: Networking	
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner on Your Own	
7:00 - 8:00	America's Funniest Magician Contest with Trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd You must be registered for both days to compete.	

www.FamilyEntertainersWorkshop.com • 757-423-3867

Magic Shops in the Area

Below is a list of the Magic shops in the Area

None have paid for this listing and if anybody knows of others let me know and I will list them.

Seattle's Market Magic Shop

Pikes Place Market

1501 Pike Place #427

Seattle, WA 98101

www.marketmagicshop.com

(A store that many know about. In existence for 30 years)

Terjung's Studio of Gifts

4547 Calif. Ave SW

Seattle, WA 98116

(This is a gift store with a counter in the back where they sell magic)

Lakewood Costumes

5932 Lake Grove ST SW

Lakewood, WA 98499

<http://www.clownshop.com>

(Mainly Costumes and Clown items, they have a counter where they sell magic)

Dave's Killer Magic Shop

910 NE Minnehaha St. Ste 1

Vancouver, WA 98665

1-888-360-6244

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM

Information on the Weekend of Magic, 3 of Clubs convention.

This will be held in Vancouver BC on November 8th – 10th 2013

From Mike Norden IBM Ring #92 Vancouver Magic Club and Host of the Convention.

The ALUMNI price is for anyone who has attended a PAST 3 of clubs, Weekend of Magic, 3 of Clubs convention. The price is now set till September. The first 75 people who register will receive a GIFT BAG of EXCLUSIVE magic stuff worth over \$75 – I am serious! We have 68 people registered already so register now!

See the NW Ring of Fire Website for the registration form or go to www.ibmring92.com to register. Or for more information contact Mike Norden at 604-916-9879.

