

The Northwest Ring of Fire

Volume 2, Issue 15

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Words from the Secretary

Craig Colombel

Secretary 2013 – accolombel@zipcon.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

Greetings NW Ring of Fire,
No report this month because of Ren Fair

If you've never been to a magic convention consider attending the 3 of Clubs Weekend in Vancouver, BC. The NWRf will be entertaining in the Friday evening show. 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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013 NWRf Meeting Themes

- 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)

FACEBOOK :

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/NORTHWEST-RING-OF-FIRE/429616737105973](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire/429616737105973)

July 2013 MEETING

July's theme was One is the Loneliest Number –

Tricks using one ahead Principle. At the July meeting we had three guests, Tom Payne, and Shiah Sarkowsky and his father, Steve Sarkowsky. Shiah was the Ring of Smoke member who we gave the scholarship to go to the Jeff McBride workshop.

We started the evening by interviewing Shai about his experience at the Jeff McBride workshop. Shai had been working in magic for five years, as he is 10 years old now that indicates that he started when he was five years old. He likes to perform close-up and parlor magic. His go to trick is to casino card trick when he is doing close-up. For platform performance, he likes to do the wizards dream to jumbo card, linking rings and a carnival deck. He has performed for tips on the street. At the Jeff McBride experience in Canada. He had a lot of fun there was a show, workshop and he got to meet Jeff McBride. He learned more about acting and being comfortable on stage. Still working on making changes to his routine from what he learned. His personal feelings were that the Jeff McBride experience was sensational. When asked what changes he was going to make to his routines, he said he was going to work harder on getting everyone in the audience involved.

Jeff Dial demonstrated something from his show that he is been doing this summer. It was a ring and rope routine that he had developed. The large ring continues to melt on and off the rope then he borrowed a finger ring did some manipulation with it. He put the ring into a silk, it vanished from the silk and appeared on a chain around his neck.

Danny Dragon showed us his Dragon accessories. He had Dragon rings, Dragon bracelets and Dragon shirts. He then talked about how early man survived at the beginning using his brains, being upright, and ESP. He still feels that we still have some ESP available to us. He took out a packet of business cards that were numbered one through six. He laid him out on the table and told the spectator to pay attention to where the card with the six on it was placed. He then mixed the cards up facedown and asked the spectator point to what he felt was the card number one, then two, all the way up to six. He then turned the cards faced up and showed that the spectator had picked all the cards correctly. This was a variation of Paul Curry trick.

We then had a teach-in by Mark Paulson. He showed us a trick where he talked about drinking soda and that it cause him to have headaches. He then had four caps from the four bottles of soda that he drink. He put them down on the table in a square and putting his hands over the bottle caps in separate corners all the caps magically gathered together in one corner. He then produced a bottle of Coke from under the handkerchief. It was a David Regal trick called clink a drink. He used the trick to demonstrate the one-ahead principle.

Craig Colombel performed a mentalism trick using a slate and the one-ahead principle. The slate was from a kid's magic kit. Mark Paulsen brought out two small birds. One was blue. One was yellow. One was called Pete the other was called Repeat. He put Pete in his pocket and asked who was left when told it was Repeat. He showed that he still had two birds and started over again. This went on until there was a stop.

Evan Schuster talked about a new technology called the Interscent. This technology allowed you to go to a site and download a picture on your cell phone and be able to smell the picture. For example, download a picture of the lemon and be able to smell the lemon. He then proceeded to take out his smart phone and demonstrate what he just told us.

Jeff Dial then demonstrated the vanishing leprechaun trick.

There was a request for person to chair the club picnic.

Anyone who wishes to help contact me at my email.

REMEMBER, TO VISIT THE CLUB'S WEBSITE, (
[HTTP://WWW.NWRINGOFFIRE.COM/INDEX.HTML](http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html))

and also visit the clubs Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire/429616737105973>

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.
No report this month
Marty & Benjamin Eskenazi

Reviews by Payne

Spellbound, The Wonder Filled Life of Doug Henning

By John Harrison

\$45.00

BoxOffice Books

<http://www.doughenningbook.com/>

Hardbound 6 ¼" X 9 ¼" 424 pages

ISBN: 978-0982463901

John Harrison writes in his introduction to, *Spellbound, The Wonder Filled Life of Doug Henning* "This is the first book about illusionist Doug Henning, I say it's the first book because I have no doubt that, like Houdini, Doug Henning will be the subject of many books". Let us hope this sentiment comes to pass as Doug Henning deserves a far better tribute to his life than a single book can offer. Not that this is a bad book. It's quite readable and for those who know little about the man who, many believe, single handedly revived the popularity of magic in the last half of the twentieth century there is much information to be gleaned.

As magic biographies go it's not as adventure filled as David Bamberg's, *Illusion Show – A life in Magic*, as endearing as Arthur Brandon's *Milo and Roger*, nor as in depth as William Kalush's *The Secret Life of Harry Houdini*. But then perhaps this is because Mr. Harrison didn't have as much to work with. Compared to the magicians featured in the aforementioned biographies Mr. Henning's career in magic, while stellar in scope was quite brief in comparison. Thrust, seemingly instantly, into the spotlight of public awareness in 1974 with his appearance in the hit Broadway Musical "The Magic Show" he would vanish just as suddenly from the world of magic a scant thirteen years later. It is because of this brief but brilliant career that twenty years after his disappearance from the magic scene few magicians under the age of thirty seem to know how instrumental Doug Henning was in helping to create the world of magic in which they now reside. It is sad to say that even though he left us with a legacy of eight groundbreaking network television specials, three successful runs on Broadway and the revival of the touring grand illusion show his status as the first superstar of magic since Houdini is fading all too quickly. Hopefully this book will help to slow down the inevitable and final descent of that falling star.

Even though Doug Henning's career was so brief a single book is insufficient to fully chronicle it. While Mr. Harrison gives us his best, providing us with an overview of Doug Henning's life and times. At the end of the book we are left with the hope that there was more to the man than what was described to us in the text. At the conclusion of the book we find ourselves looking at a two dimension portrait, a picture of a man who seemed to only have two interests in life, magic and transcendental meditation. One hopes that it is the author's inability to fully flesh out the complex individual that we hope Doug Henning was. But in the end we fear that perhaps Mr. Harrison has left us with an all too accurate portrayal. It appears that Henning's interests, according to the book, bordered on obsession. So they would have left little room for any others. After all spending several hours of each day focused exclusively on meditating would leave most of us with no time for other pastimes.

The book chronicles his life from his birth in 1947 to his untimely death from liver cancer in 2000. Though it focuses primarily on his interest and career in magic it does briefly touch on his unfortunate descent into the TM movement. His unsuccessful attempts to bring Vedaland, the ill conceived TM theme park to fruition and his embarrassingly failed runs for political office in Canada and England.

The author was a professional illusionist in the early eighties and, after running an entertainment production company for fifteen years is now a senior attorney at large international law firm. This has influenced both his writing style and the way he looks at magicians and their presentations. His writing from time to time seems to be a little too, well, technical for lack of a better word. Some of the chapters, especially those pertaining to the television specials, read more like checklists of the various tricks and props used in the production than a biographical sketch. However this minor infraction is more than made up for by the chapter on the various problems and challenges that were faced in the production of the Broadway musical *Merlin*. Anyone seriously considering mounting a true theatrical production combining both stage illusions and traditional theater would do well to carefully read and study this portion of the book. It's hard to look at the old video's of Doug Henning's performances and see what the big deal was. Unfortunately they have not aged well in the past two decades and it's hard to see him as the breath of fresh air magic needed so desperately thirty years ago. The infectious sense of wonderment and amazement he exuded that sucked us all into his world of delight and enchantment now seems corn ball and hackneyed. Kind of like looking at old High School Pictures of your parents and trying to imagine that they once were cool. This book helps to give one insight into the world that Doug Henning sprung and why his approach to magic propelled him so suddenly to such heights and guaranteed his eventual descent. He was a child of his time. A time that has come and gone.

In the end the book is a cautionary tale. A modern fable playing upon the theme of "be careful what you wish for". Doug set out to elevate magic. He sought for it to be recognized as a serious art form. To raise it from its perceived place as a simple diversion seen only at children's parties to an enticing entertainment that could be presented for adults in legitimate theatres. He successfully secured a coveted Art grant from the Canadian Government to help him pursue this dream. He knew what he wanted to accomplish but unfortunately not only didn't he know what to do once he got there he found he really didn't like doing what needed to be done in order to stay there. It is sadly ironic that someone who wanted (and in the end helped) magic to be seen as a valid theatrical art found themselves the star of a Broadway show yet unable to act, sing or dance. Broadway shows that the reviewers nearly unanimously agreed would be great for the kids.

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 Monday! Magic Monday is an hour of magic, conjuring, & prestidigitation which stars magicians from the Northwest region on the second Monday of each month.

Location: Ravenna Third Place Books in the Ravenna neighborhood of Seattle.

6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA. Time: 7-8pm

Magic Monday is not only a great place to see local magicians doing what they do best; it is also a great place for YOU to perform. It happens the second Monday of each month. If you want to hone your magic skills, get in touch with Mark Paulson, the producer of this venue (mark2061@yahoo.com). It is a wonderful chance to perform for an appreciative audience. It's been standing room only all year.

Brian Cook will be the MC for the August 12 Magic Monday. Performers include Samuel Shaefer, Zach Daniels, Roger Sylwester, and Jeff Christensen. The show starts at 7pm and goes until 8pm at Ravenna Third Place Books. It's going to be a great show!

mark2061@yahoo.com or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thirdplacebooksmagicmonday?fref=ts>

Notes to Self - " Confession of a Move Monkey"

By Phil Reda

For years I was fascinated by card magic and learning moves just to learn moves. Always on the prowl looking the perfect card control. As I mentioned in the past I stepped away from magic to re-define myself and now I have found a home in Mentalism - I still love magic. Starting over has its rewards and having a background in slights defiantly has it's advantage. But as I start this new path I find that I am falling into the same rut - currently looking for the perfect Center Tear. As I am reading " Magic and Showmanship" chapter 9 "Devices and Deception" drives an important point home. And one that has come at the right time as I start this new path.

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Memo: In the quote that follows one of the definitions of device means slight or move.

"a device is the means of achieving an effect. Conjures and laymen alike tend to overemphasize the importance of devices. The idea seems to be that the device is the secret of an illusion, it is the only thing that matters"

How many times have you read the secret and it let you down because it was so simple or maybe it seemed so transparent that you did not try the trick out? I know I have. I remember the first time I ever saw Fogal's three card predictions. It blew me away. Yet the secret is so simple and to this day it amazes me that it blows by the audience. Same with B-Wave. But I have seen both of these effect fall flat because the presentation was not well thought out. Especially B - Wave as it utilizes a simplified version of magician" s choice and the audience see's right through it if not performed correctly. Utilizing magicians' choice is an art form in itself and there are good resource materials available today - I Highly recommend Doc Hillford's "E'voque" manuscript or Max Maven 's work on the subject.

Now let's continue with the rest of the quote.

" this is like saying that rosin is all there is to playing violin. No one can coax a tune from a violin without the vital substance, and no one can understand how a violin works unless he knows the secret of rosin. Nevertheless , although rosin is essential , the art of the violinist begins where the rosin leaves off. **CONJURING REQUIRES DEVICES , BUT THE ART OF ILLUSION STARTS WHERE THE DEVICES LEAVE OFF**" (Emphasis mine)

So a slight or secret for that matter , complex or simple, it is only a means to an end. Its sole purpose is to provide the effect and it has no value in its own . I think this also speaks to tricks for magician's vs. tricks for lay audience's . Tricks for magician's tend to focus more on the complexity of moves for move sake as well as twist in plots. We're the most effective trick for a lay audience is simple and direct. One of the things that intrigues my about mentalism is the methods are simple and very bold. The whole illusion depends more on presentational skill then on difficult slights. This is not easy and I for one have a lot to learn about the presentation and staging of mind reading. My journey continues thought his great classic - it is a meaty read and is taking longer than expected. But like a fine wine I am savoring every chapter.

Until next time

Phil Reda

MAGIC



SHOWS!



LECTURES!



FUN!



**SHOWS
SURPRISES!**



- TWO EVENING SHOWS • AWESOME LECTURES •
- THE SORCERER'S SOCIAL • THE MAGICAL LUNCH •
- DEALER ROOM • AND MORE •

LOCATION — Your convention committee is hard at work negotiating the best deal they can to not only get the best venue with all the amenities required, but also the best room rates for attendees.

SOUVENIR T-SHIRT—Once again we will be producing a Souvenir T-Shirt for our Convention, which will include the names of everyone registered by October 15th. T-Shirts are \$20 each (all sizes). Don't be disappointed, pre-order yours now!

SATURDAY EVENING DINNER & SHOW—Tentative plans have been made for a BUFFET DINNER at 6:00 pm on Saturday evening. Seating for this event is limited so be sure to sign up early. The cost will be \$30 per person. Price includes an exclusive DINNER MAGIC SHOW that only those attending the dinner will get to see. Please reserve your place prior to the Weekend if you are interested in taking part.

For more information call Mike Norden at 604-916-9879

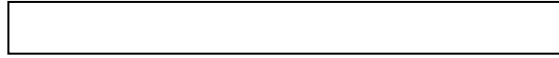
REGISTER ON LINE AT: www.ibmring92.com
or mail this registration form with total amount due.

NOTE: Canadian & American funds at par.

IBM Ring #92—The Vancouver Magic Circle



c/o Mike Norden
7969 Tuckwell Terrace
Mission BC
V2V 7B4
Canada



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 were 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.

Diamond Jim Tyler has offered to donate some material from his upcoming book Bamboozlers Three. For the next couple of months I will print them here. More information on the book can be found at www.diamond-jim.com/originals Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters & Bewitchery: Volume Three by Diamond Jim Tyler is due out June of 2013.

Expect the same classy style pocket-sized book. It contains 75 effects with over 100 illustrations and is bound in green faux leather, with silver gilt edges, silver foiled stamping and has a ribbon marker. The foreword of the book is by Mac King. The book will be sold exclusively at www.diamond-jim.com/originals for \$19.95.

ABOUT FACE



BET: Prop up a \$10 bill against a salt-shaker sitting on a table so that the portrait faces outward. Everyone can see that the profile faces to the left or west (Fig. 1). Bet that you can make the profile look the opposite direction without touching the bill.

SECRET: Fill a clear glass with water and place it about four inches in front of the bill. Now when your audience looks through the glass all can see the portrait is looking the opposite direction (Fig. 2). The image may be distorted for some depending on their angle when looking at this optical illusion. If they see a blurred or double-image, then have them close one of their eyes to witness the mirror reflection of the bill through the glass of water.



You can also start with the bill flush against the glass so all can see that the profile still faces the same direction. Then slowly pull the bill back and have them look at the portrait through the glass so they can see the exact moment the head turns the opposite direction. As a follow-up I'll ask them "Which President is on the \$10 bill?", as I cover up his name printed below his portrait. If they guess Alexander Hamilton, then they are surprisingly incorrect, because it is a trick question. Hamilton was a founding father and the Secretary of the Treasury but was never President.