

# The Northwest Ring of Fire

December 2009

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## Secretary's Message

Greetings from your new secretary, Craig Colombel. This newsletter is late this month as I am just getting into the secretary role. I am planning to try to get the newsletter no later than two weeks after the meeting. I am planning to have an updated calendar of events and guest articles from member of the Ring. Also I may be able to prevail on our President to contribute something. This newsletter will be posted on the website and when I get a list of email address, will be sent to the membership by email. 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,

I hope everyone had a happy and fulfilling holiday and that you found a joyous box full of magic under the tree. For the workers in our club I hope your holiday gigs were good and plentiful and that all the checks cleared.

For those who have been out of the loop for the last couple of months (see there is a good reason to go to the monthly meeting) I am the new club president.

"How did this happen? I never voted for you?" I hear you ask. Well through a series of unfortunate events I was thrust into the position due to the ever shifting vagaries of a previous candidate for the office. In other words the guy you voted for changed his mind and no one else stepped forward to take the reins of power so you got stuck with me.

The good news, it's only for a year as I'm sure my reign as presidency will be more than enough motivation to have someone more qualified to step forward and lead this club onward into the first unquestionably numbered decade of the new millennium. Anyway, I've got some fun things planned and I'm hoping to get through this year without causing too much damage. Actually that's a lie. I really haven't anything planned as of yet. But I'm sure I will come up with something. So really right now I'm open for suggestions. So, if there's something you'd like to see occur at our meetings that presently isn't happening drop me a line at [payne@aol.com](mailto:payne@aol.com) and I'll see what I can do.

I want this to be the best year ever for our club! A year full of fun, friendship and other trite and meaningless sayings put in simply as filler knowing few, if any of you have read this far down.

Our next meeting is the 14<sup>th</sup> and the theme is "What I got for Xmas". I want everyone to bring something they got during the holiday and show it to everyone. It doesn't have to be a trick, nor do you have to perform. You just need to bring something to show and share and help me fill time.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting, don't forget our Holiday Party on the 24<sup>th</sup> as well!

See you soon

Payne

## **December 2009 Meeting:**

The outgoing president Brian Cook open the meeting and then turn it over to the incoming president Payne. The members were reminded that there is a club library and that they should take advantage of it. The treasure reported that the club had enough money for the Christmas party. Which according to the club's traditions will be held in January.

The Christmas party will be held at Shawn O.Donnald pub and restaurant on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The party will start at 4pm and go until 7pm. Please do not show up early. There will be entertainment the performer /s will be a surprise. Come and find out.

We had three first time visitors.

Ralph reported on the members who performed at the Lynnwood tree lighting ceremony. For those who do not know every year, the club members perform for the people standing in line to see Santa Claus at the Tree Lighting. This is how we repay the city for the use of the meeting space at the firehouse.

Pictures from the tree lighting can be seen at <http://www.magickhappens.com> .

The members were reminded again that this is a performing ring and the club is a place to practice and to make mistakes and to get experience. So try to bring something you are working on or want to become better at to the meeting and perform. Remember the clubs' motto is "This may or may not work"

Rich informed everyone that the option of buying a jacket with the club's name and logo on it was available again.

### **Performances:**

Payne gave a demonstration of a trick that he was reviewing for MUM magazine. It was a card trick called "Up the Ante" Later during the meeting he performed another card trick that was a prediction using a red deck and blue deck and a 2 pad notebook.

Ralph- gifted us with another installment of his series of lectures on how to make your magic better. This time it was about how to design routines. He talked about don't worry about the details at first but work on the who, what, why and when of the routine. Don't worry so much at first about the how, work on the character, action, plot and climax. Start with the climax in mind and work backwards to beginning. If you want to know more come to the next meeting for his next installment.

Jeff Dial performed a seasonal routine using 7 boxes decorated as gifts and 7 cards with name of children on them. A member of the audience was to pick correctly which gifts were for the 6 "nice" children and which gift was for the 1 'Naughty" child.

Philiman did a mentalism routine using credit cards, with three members of the audience using the cards to go on a shopping trip and predicting the total costs of the items.

Craig Colombel perform a routine in which a Christmas stocking was first demonstrated to be empty and then with the help of the imagination of an audience member produced a Christmas ornament(a star).

### **After**

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

## **Magic Reviews**

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

### **A Knight's Tour With Free Choice of Start and End**

E-Book by Chris Wasshuber

Available from Lybrary.com

<http://www.lybrary.com/knights-tour-with-free-choice-start-p-5886.html>

Price \$25.00

A Knight's Tour is an ancient mathematical problem in which a chessman knight is moved, according to the rules of chess, around an empty chess board so that it lands on each of the sixty-four squares only once. For centuries it has been a popular conundrum among mathematicians and chess addicts alike and has, in recent times, appeared sporadically as a mental feat in the acts of magicians and mind readers.

There are two types of tours. Open and closed. A closed tour is one in which the knights final resting place is in a position where it could capture its starting square. An open tour is one where this is not the case. Mr. Wasshuber has developed a method which allows the performer not only to present both types of tours but also to successfully create one in which the spectator has freely chosen both the starting and ending squares, as long as they are of opposing colors -- ending on the same color square as one starts is as mathematically impossible as trisecting an angle or rounding a square.

It is a slim E-Book comprising just 17 pages but it is clearly and concisely written with all the necessary diagrams one would need to learn this version of a knight's tour. There are no presentation ideas nor tips put forth in the manuscript leaving it entirely to the reader to develop for themselves an act where a knight is moved about a chessboard in an entertaining and engaging way.

Be warned, this is not a magic trick. It's not even a trick. It's a true and unadulterated feat. Mr. Wasshuber has developed a matrix that allows the performer to work out in their head a unique Knight's Tour where the spectator chooses the start and stopping square. Thus this is not something you can pick up on Friday afternoon with the expectation that you can put it in your show on Saturday night. Unless of course the Saturday night you are thinking of is several months from now.

For most of us mere mortals this display of mental agility is going to require a huge amount of memorization and practice. One needs to be able to visualize and hold in their mind the image of a quartered and seemingly random numbered chessboard as well as the path that the knight needs to make on it this time around. No mean feat as it is journey is different every time you do it. So if you suffer from numerophobia or your little gray cells aren't as nimble as they used to be you may find all this to be a daunting, if not completely insurmountable task. However if you're the kind of person who can work out the permutations of a memorized deck after it's been faro shuffled eight times this manuscript might be just be right up your alley.

**Payne**

### **Upcoming Events: See the Web site for more info: <http://www.nwringoffire.com/index>**

January 11- Magic Monday

January 14 – Ring of Fire Meeting

January 24 – Ring of Fire Christmas/New Years Celebration

February 6 – Rafael Benatar Lecture