

The Northwest Ring of Fire

January 2011

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President's Message

A message from your President Master Payne

Happy New Year!

Hope your holidays were magical and there were plenty of tricks under your tree. But remember, even though the presents have been unwrapped, the lights taken down and the tree drug to the curbside for the recycle truck the holiday's are far from over. Martin Luther King Day is just around the corner as well as our annual Holiday Party. Yes, this Sunday we will bring the holidays to an official close with a fine repast in Shawn O'Donnell's subterranean banquet facility were I am sure a fine time will be had by all. there will be great food, awards, entertainment, a gift exchange (so bring a gift if you want to get one) and a fine time to be had by all. On a serious note. I have been notified by the Lynnwood Fire department that we will not be able to meet in either of the stations for the February meeting. Presently we are trying to secure another facility and we will let everyone know where that will be.

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.

Payne

December 2010 Meeting:

The December meeting was great fun.

JR lead off with using a deck of cards as a lie detector. He informed us he programed the deck using a Microsoft program. A card was chosen and returned to the deck. After programing the deck he ask four questions and the participate could answer yes or no and could either tell the truth or lie. The deck being program as a lie detector JR was able to determine the chosen card.

Bruce Meyers borrowed a dollar bill, folded it up and produced a silver dollar from the folded bill. He unfolded then refolded the dollar bill and produced a jumbo coin.

Payne took a two dollar bill and use it for a very bad joke. I will spare my readers.

Brian Melicher used a deck of cards to performed a mental effect. Had the spectator think of either red or black cards, the the suite then down to a single card. This card was only a thought of card. He removed a deck and show that the thought of card was missing from the deck. The card was in an envelope and was the only blue back card of a red back deck.

Craig Colombel performed a routine with 4 different color bags with gifts in them. Three spectators picked a number with Craig with the left over number. An envelope was open by a 4 spectator who read which number got which color bag.

The thee spectators each got a gift and Craig ended up with the bag with a rock.

JR did another routine with him telling a story about as a kid his father would give him a \$20 bill and tell him to get change to share with his brothers and sisters. He went to the corner store and using color bills showed how when the storekeeper counted the change was correct, but when he counted the amount was wrong. This happened several times with constant miscounts. A funny routine.

Philemon in an unusual action for him performed a card trick. He took from his wallet a business card of a psychic. He had someone pick a card and keep it secret. He then had someone with a cell phone with speaker call the psychic.

When answer they got a answering machine, but on the machine was a fortune and the identity of the card.

JR talked about reading the DelRay book and performing a trick from it. He took a dollar, wrapped it around an quarter and then passed the dollar and quarter through a finger ring(that was too small for the quarter.

Payne showed a teleportation device that he made for a Steampunk theme show.

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

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.

Thanks

Craig

Magic Reviews

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

Improved Deluxe Baby Gag

Devin Knight

A Comedy Classic Improved

\$29.95

Devin Knight

<http://www.murphysmagic.com>

Reviewed by Payne

No, the deluxe baby gag is not an improved device for stifling the errant cries of an upset infant. Instead Devin Knight has taken the old Baby Prediction Gag and expanded it into a commercial 3 minute routine suitable for nearly all stand up performance situations. It would make a great emcee bit or the perfect extra trick to have on hand when you need to fill an awkward pause caused by technical difficulties. It packs perfectly flat, but as they say, plays big. The 8 ½ X 11 pictures can be seen in the largest of theaters. They are also printed on a highly durable plastic material so they should last a lifetime or more.

For those of you who have been living their life in a cave somewhere in the hinterlands and are unfamiliar with this effect it goes like this. The magician asks a member of the audience to think of a famous celebrity, generally limited to an actor or a former president. It is a free choice and requires no force or preshow work. The spectator names one, say Tom Hanks. The magician exclaims "That's incredible because only just this morning I put a picture of Tom Hanks in this envelope I've been holding". The magician then extracts from the envelope a picture of a baby which he tells the audience is a photo of Tom Hanks when he was 6 months old. But wait, "What if someone had named Morgan Freeman?" the magician asks rhetorically. "Well" he says, flipping the picture over to reveal a photo of a little black baby. "I had that covered".

Not only do you get the classic White\Black baby picture. But you also receive a second two sided picture that allows you to do two more bad jokes, one of which isn't but still is along the lines of the old picture of my Pride and Joy gag. Also included is a groaner of a "Think of a number" prediction that I myself had never before seen but is definitely going into my repertoire.

What more can I say? You get everything you need to perform the trick. A manila envelope with a prediction printed on it, two sets of photos providing you with at least six jokes and a well written set of instructions complete with a working script with complete explanations of the correct verbiage to use and an explanation of why for those among us who might be comically impaired. So if you're a fan of this old canard of bad jokes and questionable puns. Or have been looking for a quality version of this prop to put into your act. Look no further. Your search is done.

Payne

Ring of Smoke Report by Bruce Meyers

At the last Ring Of Smoke youth magic club meeting we had visitors from Canada professional magician Steve Dickson and the remarkable Billy "Bales" Hsueh. They performed for us, taught us magic and helped us with some of our material that we'll be performing at Mystic Pasta. We are so grateful to them for coming down and sharing the magic!

MYSTIC PASTA will be on March 13th, 2011. This dinner theater will feature the close up and stage talents of the magicians of the NW Ring Of Smoke. Logan Earle will be Master of Ceremonies for the stage show. The theme for this year's production will be "13" and those things of bad luck and perhaps a little good luck. We will also be featuring all you can eat pasta by the magicians in the kitchen of Shawn O'Donnell's. Doors open at 4:00PM, tickets are only \$10. Please everyone come down and support the magicians of tomorrow



Lessons Learned

Jeff Dial

The first real lesson I learned about magic came 15 – 20 years after I read the book that contained the lesson.

I purchased the book at the old Mickey Hades shop upstairs from Shorey's Books. It was run by the then barely published Stephen Minch. I had asked for a good book on magic and he recommended and I bought, The Amateur Magician's Handbook by Henry Hay. (The Tarbell set was to come later.) It was my first real magic book.

From Hay I learned my basic card technique. It is actually a great introduction to basic to conjuring with a broad range of magic and theory. His two main categories of *hand magic* (sleight of hand with cards, coins, and balls) and *head magic* (effects that rely on something extra – trick deck, stacked deck, self-working, etc) have been useful distinctions when thinking through different kinds of effects.

The troubling section was that titled: Apparatus Magic. 46 of 386 pages of the whole book was devoted to stuff I might want to buy. Half of that material was on silk magic. Hay described various tricks using apparatus, including Orange, Rice, Checkers and summed up by saying basically "apparatus is crap".

As a young guy just getting into magic I had come to the conclusion that "apparatus is everything". I ignored Hay and gave a lot of money to the magic dealers of Seattle. But Hay's evaluation always was stuck in my mind. (Especially after spending too much on a piece of crap apparatus.)

Several years later the lesson Hay was trying to teach sunk in. I finally worked on doing magic and not performing tricks.

Here are the questions Hay chose to have us evaluate our purchase of apparatus:

Can you use this piece for more than one trick?

If they are a one-trick pieces, does the trick make sense?

Does the trick make sense for *me*?

Can I do the same trick without the apparatus?

Just this week I was working out a method for something that was hanging up the ending to an effect in progress. I had the solution that was eluding me, but had to integrate it into the routine. I had trick decks, switches, and several moments of misdirection to pull it off. The final solution (or at least the final solution of the moment) was to do it without apparatus. It is a lesson I am still learning.

Henry Hay's The Amateur Magician's Handbook is available from the club library (B79) as well as Mark Wilson's Course in Magic (B37), both great books for the beginner and intermediate magician.