

# The Northwest Ring of Fire

January 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*

January 2012

Happy New Year Magicians and Magic Lovers,

The Northwest Ring of Fire will be having its first meeting of the last year in history (according the Mayan calendar) Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Blue Ridge Fire Station. Our theme for the night will be “**Do a Trick for Me - Tricks with a Borrowed Deck of Cards**”. So come to amaze us all with what you can do with a borrowed deck. As an added bonus, we’re asking if everyone who performs would teach the group how they accomplished (or nearly accomplished) their miracle. We’ll make some time to have break-out sessions as well. For those of you that find it hard to stick to the theme we will let you show off what you got for Christmas as well.

In February the theme will be “**Robert Harbin Night – Tricks with paper, books, envelopes, etc.**” (For our purposes playing cards by themselves will not be in keeping with the theme.) Be thinking about that as well. We are also looking for a couple people that would like to workshop, demo, or ‘teach a trick’ based around the theme. Contact me if you would like to help.

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

<http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html>

Looking forward to a great year.

Jeff Dial

President NWRF

*Haec aut bene aut male cedent*

## **December 2011 Meeting:**

The December meeting was great fun.

This was el-presidente Payne's last meeting as president. There was notice of the Christmas party which will be on January 29 at 5pm at Shawn O'Donnell's restaurant. You need to have paid your dues to come.

Payne demonstrated an effect that produces smoke from the fingertips call "Pure Smoke", very cool.

He then showed a trick brought back from the past. An early version of confusing dots also know as "Whats Dots" It is a smaller card and is a remake of the 1957 version.

Paul told a story about buying a house at first he showed a picture of a large house at which he and his wife being older decided they did not need such a large house, he then folded the picture and it change to a smaller house, after being told by his wife that his mother-in-law will be moving in with them he folded the picture again and it became a picture of an outhouse.

Brian Melicher performed a card prediction using a deck of cards and a coin. When the prediction match the picked card in the envelope he then showed that the rest of the cards were all the same except the chosen card.

Danny Dragon had a selection of cards, one had a picture of Houdini in chains on it, which he placed face down on the table. The other cards had pictures of locked handcuffs on them, he then re-showed the handcuff cards now showing that the handcuffs were unlocked. He then pick up the picture of Houdini in chains and showed that Houdini had escaped as the card was now blank.

His second trick was a gambling routine using 2 cards and the game was Blackjack. He started with the two cards being nines, then became a nine and a ten then changing to a Jack and Ace.

Paul Paulson had three envelopes with three predictions. At first the predictions did not match, but after some by-play the backs of the cards matched the predictions.

Jeff Dial used a stuffed reindeer to randomly pick three people out of the audience. The first thought of red or black the next thought of a suit, the third thought of a number. He then open the deck and counted down to the number and found the card.

Payne brought out two decorated boxes and a set of cards with pictures of children on them. He then had the spectator decide which pictures to put in front of each box. After all the pictures were selected those in front of the box with candy had on the back of the pictures the word Nice, and all in front of the box with coal had the word naughty on the backs.

This was from Darrin Brown's Undertaker.

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.

Thanks

Craig

## **Northwest Ring of Fire Christmas Party**

This is a reminder that the Northwest Ring of Fire Christmas Party will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5pm at  
Shawn O'Donnell's Restaurant  
122 128<sup>th</sup> St. SE  
Everett, Wa

This party is for Members only so if you want to come you must have paid your dues for 2012.

## Thoughts by Ralph (Zinger, the Magick) Huntzinger

Once again we have the thoughts and musings from Ralph Huntzinger's Blog. I have abstracted some of it and if you wish to read the rest of the article go to <http://magickhappens.com/wp/>. Now with his kind permission the thoughts and opinions of Ralph(Zinger, the Magick) Huntzinger.

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January 2012's Northwest Ring of Fire (IBM club) meeting theme is about tricks with borrowed decks of cards. I enjoy the puzzle of how card tricks work and occasionally find routines that are thoughtfully crafted enough to delight me — but, most card tricks and their presentations exhibit the worst traits of amateur magic and magicians [very personal opinion]. I once asked Kirk Charles, who's opinion I highly respect, what was the attraction of "card tricks" and he simply answered, "People like them". Since we should entertain "people", I guess Kirk's answer is the prime reason to know some card tricks. I'm not sure about performing them unless the effect/routine is "priceless" — I let others do that. Basically I'm not a card trick or cardman.

The basic note for January's theme was, "Be ready to perform a trick with a borrowed deck of cards." This raises some interesting subtleties and magic is all about assumptions and subtleties.

"Deck of cards" usually assumes a standard poker sized, 52 cards, probably Bicycle deck, red or blue backed; but, that's not the only deck out there that might be borrowed. What do we do if the deck we are given is not "standard", perhaps one of the Tarot variations or a pinochle deck or a strangely shaped deck? A full tarot deck contains 14 cards in each suit; low cards labeled 1-10, and court cards *Valet* (Jack), *Chevalier* (Cavalier/Knight), *Dame* (Queen), and *Roi* (King), plus the Fool or Excuse card, and 21 trump cards. A pinochle deck consists of two copies of each of the 9, 10, jack, queen, king, and ace cards of all four suits, for 48 cards per deck. I don't even want to visualize the popular Japanese, other cultures, and fantasy gaming decks that might be offered. I have circular decks and lozenge shaped decks plus various sizes of "regular decks" (Jumbo & larger). Perhaps we need to be able to use any deck at any time if we want to save face.

### My poker deck tricks

I have two trick I do with any Anglo-American poker deck: "Chinese Laundry Trick" (probably from Henry Hays) and "They Know Their Names" (an modest adaptation of Lewis Ganson's "My Name-Your Name", *Routined Manipulation, Part One*, 1950, pages 91 & 92, which Ganson adapted from Dr. Daly's "Ad Lib Spelling"). I probably know dozens of dozens other outlines for tricks but don't have a "priceless" routine to go with them soe don't perform them, the sleights/mechanics are not a challenge but rather when, where and why I would perform them is the stopping point.

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Ralph goes on to describe the two tricks and how to do them with performances. If you wish to know more and to read more on the subject go to <http://magickhappens.com/wp/>. Thank you Ralph

## MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012

- January – “Do a Trick for Me” – Be ready to perform a trick with a borrowed deck of cards.
- February – Robert Harbin Night – Tricks with paper, books, envelopes, etc. Performance and workshop.
- March – “May the Force be With You.” – Tricks that require the spectator to make a choice that is anything but free. Performance and workshop.
- April – Larry Jennings Night – Tricks involving water, liquids, and all stuff runny. Workshop TBD
- 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.

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Remember if you have not done so it is time to pay your dues.