

The Northwest Ring of Fire

Volume 4, Issue 12

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Words from the Secretary

Craig Colombel

December 2015 – accolombel@zipcon.com

If you are performing or have performed let me know and I will put it into the newsletter. Also if you have some thoughts you will like to see in print send it to me. Send the articles to accolombel@zipcon.com.

Also it is that time of year again Time to pay your dues. The cost is \$25 (for a single membership) or \$35 (for a family membership). Help support your club. More from Evan below

Ring of Smoke Report

The December 6 Ring of Smoke meeting was held at Shawn O'Donnell's and hosted by Ralph and Mark. The group of about 7, focused on table hopping, impromptu and performance ideas, while jamming and performing together. Ben did a new sword through ring demonstration, while Theo did a creative Triumph routine and Otto demonstrated his work on a coin matrix. All of the kids jammed and shared their performance ideas as well as recent experiences from the PCAM 2015 convention in Canada. The youth had a great time and appreciated the insight and assistance of Zinger and Mark!
Ben and Marty

President's Message

From our incoming President Ralph Huntzinger

Having a theme allows us to focus our attention from a common point. Different people see an idea and develop different treatments and effects. I'll start the year with three months of themes, and hand the creation of common starting points to a team for three months (Apr, May, and June's themes), then another for three months (July, Aug, and Sept's themes), another for three months (Oct, Nov, and Dec's), and so on. Expect me to ask you to be on a "theme team", I need three members in January to develop the second quarter's ideas.

General Theme:

Jan -- "All I got for Xmax was ..." Related to holidays, actual magic gift from holiday, "wished I'd received", previous year's magic gift, etc.

Feb -- "Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink" Coleridge's poem directs us to liquid including dreary outdoor weather. Containers (bottles, glasses, bowls), liquid color changing, vanish & appear, etc.

Mar -- "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt in our philosophy" Act I, scene 5 from Shakespeare's Hamlet suggest anything and everything except what is expected.

I also suggest every month we consider another approach to effects and so take a page from Pavel's pamphlet, "Magical Creations or "How to invent a new Trick". Pavel suggests that the effect is "visible part .. that the spectator perceives" and the method is "hidden part ... the means by which the illusion is achieved." As many others have done, Pavel then suggest twelve, and only twelve, effects or combinations of effects. Although we all have variations on this "dozen list", they give a common starting point from which to discuss, analyze, and develop "tricks".

Those twelve effects are what I'll call 2016's "Aspect Themes":

- Jan --- **Production and Multiplication** (quantity production)
- Feb --- **Vanish** (most common in magic)
- Mar --- **Color Change** (suitable for any object)
- April --- **Transposition or Substitution** (object travels or changes places)
- May --- **Transformation** (object changes to another object)
- June --- **Penetration** (solid through solid, including Ties, Releases, and Escapes)
- July --- **Restoration** (mending a mutilated object)
- Aug --- **Diminishing** (object diminishes in size or shape)
- Sept --- **Growing** (object becomes bigger, longer or larger)
- Oct --- **Deterioration** (often in comedy and pseudo-psychic effects)
- Nov --- **Mental Magic** (Divination, ESP, Mind reading, Telepathy, etc.)
- Dec --- **Levitation** (rising, floating, flying or suspended objects)

November 2015 MEETING

On the Ball – Magic with any kind of Ball - Baseballs, Tennis balls, Billiard balls, rubber balls, cork balls, Sponge balls, Marbles

During the business part of the meeting the slate of officers for next year are: Ralph Huntzinger-President, Vice President Andrew Olmstead, 2nd Vice President- Jim Rodgers, Treasurer- Brian Melicher, Secretary- Craig Colombel, We also discussed the option of having our holiday party as a Pizza party. More information to follow.

Magic:

Jeff Dial came out with a bowl full of balls 6 different colors and had someone pick a color. The balls were then placed in a circle on one side of a wooden board. On the other side of the board he placed a shot glass and over the shot glass he placed an inverted large glass. The board was covered with a cloth and when the cloth was removed the chosen ball was inside the shot glass. Jeff had another ball chosen and repeated the effect. He then showed how the prop worked and told us the prop was called "Hole in One" built by Abbott.

Ralph handed out some red/yellow balls and proceeded to show everyone how to do the "Trap Pass" He then gave us his thoughts on the use of the Trap pass, and the French Drop vs the Tourniquet. Ralph told the club his ideas on "one point of information" when performing a trick. The concept of what moves or can moves call attention and the idea that straight motion is easy to follow and can be predetermined, while a curve motion is harder for the mind to predict and holds attention longer. He talked about the idea of transferring energy from one hand to the other.

Evan Shuster came out with a tennis ball and vase. He covered the top of the vase with a black cloth, then placed the ball on top. He then covered the ball and vase combo with another cloth. When he removed the large cloth the ball was now under the small cloth on the vase. He then showed the club how the trick was performed.

Craig Colombel brought out 3 round red "jingle" bells and demonstrated that only one would ring. He moved the bells around and asked the audience to keep their eye on the one that rings. After moving them around he asked if people knew where the ringing bell was. Each time the audience picked the wrong bell. He then showed how to perform the trick and got some feedback on how to improve the handling. Craig then accepted an item for the first restart of the Cook's Challenge. (See info below)

Joe Martinek shared with the club a gig he had. It was for the radio host Delilah. She had a circus theme charity party on her estate and Joe performed walk-around and some table/street magic. Congrats Joe.

Come to a meeting and show off your magic

Remember, to visit the club's website, <http://www.nwringoffire.com> and also visit the club's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire/4296167377105973>

We are back at our old place

Richmond Beach Library

19601 21st. Ave. NW.

Shoreline, WA 98177

We have the room from 6:30 PM, and the meeting runs from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

News from the 3 of Clubs/ PCAM

Devin Graupmann son of member Linae Graupmann, won two medals from 3 of Clubs PCAM 2015 Magic Competition which took place in Chiliwack, Canada! Devin won medals in "Stage" and "Close-up" magic! Way to go Devin!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NWRF – 2015 Meeting Themes

December 10 – Finished Magic – Bring in Magic that you’ve been working on that’s finished. –maybe the “unfinished” Magic from March’s meeting!

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)

Cook’s Challenge

Brian Cook has been NWRF's president, recipient of one of PCAM's highest achievements, winner of many competitions, owner of MagicCrafters, and presently IBM's Washington State Territorial Vice President. While president he developed a very fun Challenge where several sealed & unknown effects, ideas, or gimmicks were handed out at a meeting to several volunteers who promised to perform the challenge at the next meeting.

“Cook's Challenge” will become a regular part of each meeting in 2016. Two or three different and undisclosed effects will be handed out and the next month we'll see how the volunteers fare performing the challenge. Craig Colombel accepted a challenge last month and we'll discover how he performs using a “unique utility device” at December’s meeting.

Jim Rogers has stepped up to lead a team to develop Challenges for January, February, and March. Three challenge boxes will be handed out at the December meeting for performance at January’s meeting – thought provoking, manipulative, and a bent sense of humor. And, by the way, places on Cook's Challenge Development Team Two for April, May, and June are open – volunteer to create the challenges.

The Magic of Giving

Marc Dunston

Illustrated by Katie Cantrell

Children's Book

Book 10" X 8" 32 pages

14 color illustrations 2 color photographs

\$16.99

ISBN: 9781589808058

Pelican Publishing <http://www.pelicanpub.com>

Reviewed by Payne

No, this is not the highly anticipated and recently released treatise on Gift Magic by the gang at Mystery School. No, this is a recently released picture book for children with a magic theme. But, the message is much the same.

The story follows a little boy named Marc in his quest to find a suitable talent to display in his schools upcoming talent show. All of his fellow class mates seem to be blessed with talents of their own. But Marc seems to have none to call his own. Fortunately for him, as well as the overall plot of the story, Marc comes across a book on magic in his school's library. He checks out the book and quickly works at learning the tricks it contains. Not to give away the whole plot but Marc, with the aid of his family and friends in two weeks creates a workable act complete with props, music and the requisite top hat and cape and of course wins the talent show through hard work perseverance and most importantly, practice. He wins the \$100.00 prize and uses it to treat a friend's family whose father has recently lost his job to a fantastic holiday feast.

Those of an acerbic or curmudgeonly nature might find this tale overly maudlin and trite. But there are valuable lessons to be learned from the story. The benefits of practice and perseverance. The value of sacrifice and of course the never ending benefits one can find in the performance of magic.

So if you've got a little one in your life that needs a gentle nudge into the art of magic this book might be just the thing. Especially if you include a nifty magic kit in the deal.

Hello everyone!

As we come to the end of another magical year it is time to begin thinking and planning for 2016. We appreciate everyone's support in the past, and we hope that we can continue to count on your support in the future.

With that said... 2016 membership dues are now due. The cost is \$25 (for a single membership) or \$35 (for a family membership). One benefit of joining is that each member receives a \$5 discount on each and every lecture, and this year we have a terrific line-up for you:

Kainoa Harbottle: February 20th, 2016

Christian Engblom: April 9th, 2016

Daryl: June 4th, 2016

Diamond Jim Tyler: September 17th, 2016

John "Handsome Jack" Lovick: November 12th, 2016

We may also have a special guest lecturer join us in January for an exclusive "Seattle only" appearance.

If you are already a member of the Northwest Ring of Fire I hope that you will continue to support our club by renewing your membership in 2016. If you are not already a member, but you enjoy the lectures and even an occasional meeting, I hope that you will consider joining us this year. If you know someone in the area with an interest in magic, I hope that you will spread the word and encourage them to come to a meeting and see what it's all about.

Also... **Magic Club memberships make great stocking stuffers and Hanukkah presents!** ☺

I hope to see many of you at our next meeting on Thursday, December 10th.

Richmond Beach Library

19601 21st. Ave. NW.

Shoreline, WA 98177

We have the room from 6:30 PM, and the meeting runs from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Bring a friend!

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

1707 Main Street
Vancouver, WA 98665
360-448-9022

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM

South Seattle Magic and Novelty

9460 Rainier Ave S
Seattle, WA 98118
206-321-1291

FunkyFun Magic Shop

Capital Mall
625 Black Lake Blvd
Olympia, WA, 98502
<http://Funkyfunmagic.com>
Funkyfunmagic@gmail.com

Magical happenings

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.

December 14, 2015

Mark Paulson

Jim Earnshaw

Philemon Vanderbeck

Master Payne

If you wish to perform contact Mark at:

mark2061@yahoo.com or on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/thirdplacebooksmagicmonday?fref=ts>

Illusion Factory (Seattle's Best Magicians)

Delancey's on 3rd 810 S 3rd St Renton, WA
1st Saturdays of the month. Doors open at 7:45pm
Food, Drinks Close-up Magic 8-9 pm
Emcee Tim Flynn
Stage Show 9pm. \$10/\$15
Call Seattle Juggling and Magic shop
206-859-8363

Just a Thought

By Ralph Huntzinger

Once again Ralph is sharing his writings from his blog. This time I am printing the whole article as I feel it is that important <http://magickhappens.com/wp/?p=1066>

If I had to find a simple statement for 2016's focus and activities it would be: **“Performance, Participation, Sharing, and Discovery.”**

I firmly believe magic happens with performance (before an audience) — a great amount of work is done preparing for performance but I consider that to be something other than “magic” unless it involves aspects of actual performance. Lectures and workshops are downright boring without some performance (I should know, I've presented enough boring ones). Learning an effect is playing with oneself until performance occurs. Planning, organizing, and preparing for a show only becomes magic when the performance occurs. The inner working of an organization is essential but is “management, planning, grunt work, or completing tasks”; it becomes magical when magic performance occurs because of it. NWRF's focus is performing magic and making that performance happen. I dream and am working toward meetings that fill up over an hour and a half with performance or learning about performance. And that performance comes from members, you should assume that you will share your fascination with magic in front of the group along with sitting and discovering others fascinations (it is an expectation).

The biggest internal activity you will feel is that all members will be involved in all aspects of what NWRF does. We'll re-clarify what we do and what we want to do. With this approach each member becomes involved in shaping what we do, how we do it, and what we will become. I have a challenge with traditional authority figures and always look at alternative ways of doing things. That means all the NWRF President can do is suggest, push, inspire, lead by example, make opportunities for things to happen and the like. I'll be contacting every member and seeing what they would like to do and what they want NWRF to become. I'll also be asking each person to do something with and for the club. Most tasks will be done by small teams and will focus on short term (3 month) activities. For example, with the focus on performance, one team will look at 3 months of suggested themes and how to get them performed in meetings; another team works on 3 months of teach-ins, arranging for teachers and coordinating the details; another on 3 months of member profiles for newsletter, another on strolling performance possibilities, another on recommending books and resources; etc. None of these tasks are difficult and could be done by THE BOARD but involvement is the key here; members create, develop, decide, and do the activities of their club. I will not burn out a few members but will develop members who know the club is their club. To begin with: I need two members to help Brian (our treasurer) and myself (new president) review 2015 financial records and prepare an “end of year” report [Bylaws and common sense call for an Auditing Committee]. Probably those two members will continue (*if they want to because they are aware of 2015 details*) helping a team recommend 2016 financial planning (Budget Committee reports to Board by Feb 15th) — with an eye to 2017 thoughts for “A Day of Magic”. If you are interested in either 2015 report team or 2016-2017 financial planning team, let me know (ralph@magickhappens.com).

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I've discovered at least twenty areas that require teams, that discovery reveals all members will constantly be able to shape what the club does and becomes all the time. Keeping secrets of what we are doing within the club is not something we'll do; the more you know about something the more it becomes part of you and becomes yours. One thing we will do is revamp our ways of letting each other and outside people know what we do. We have almost totally moved to digital communications with our newsletter, website, and emailed announcements. *(I'll actually post some postcards for social functions because I love that outdated tradition, actually getting something to put on the refrigerator or bulletin board is special.)* Each of the Board Members is committed to writing a column for the newsletter and I am interested to see what is on their minds; several others have agreed to share their thoughts on the club's activities and their interests. I see the newsletter remaining central but perhaps it will change from a monthly announcement to somehow updating information between issues; perhaps it will move to incorporating the nwringoffire.com website as a place for current content with the newsletter summarizing and pointing to detailed conversations. Newsletter Production Team(s) are on the list; reporting in the newsletter is part of team's responsibilities (recognition for work done is rewarding).

NWRF has a tradition of being a "teaching and learning" club, it's in our Constitution. Central to all our concerns is continuing to learn about and performing magic. NWRF provides a safe environment to work on each of our magic(s). If teaching and learning sounds too formal and imposing, I suggest the simple concepts of "sharing" and "discovery". I've heard loud and clear that we will continue our support of a lecture series that brings outside of region practitioners to share their insights. I've also clearly heard that sharing knowledge through "teach-ins", "directing to excellent resources", and a strong/useful library are key values for NWRF. Obviously working teams to find, develop, and present (both in person and in writing) these aspects are required in order to have them. I'll be calling on every member to spend some time sharing their abilities to make these activities happen.

I think I've exhausted my space and your attention; I know I've exhausted my aching shoulder. Share your thoughts, it's your club and it will develop well with your direct and active participation

(ralph@magickhappens.com)

This Month we are welcoming a new writer Evan Shuster. He is in charge of producing the clubs lectures. Below is a review he has kindly written for the newsletter. Enjoy.

Inspiration - Volume 2 (Bebel and Jean-Pierre Vallarino) (DVD)

Reviewed by Evan Shuster...

Recommended! (with reservations as noted below, related to minor production issues).

French card legends Bebel and J. P. Vallarino are the subjects of a new DVD set produced by Arteco Productions, titled "Inspiration." Originally released in France as a single volume DVD, this set of discs (intended as a 3-volume set, but only two volumes have been released at this time) has been remastered to include the original French language version as well as an English dubbed version. The main menu allows you to select the language of your choice. The music on this menu is deafening compared with the actual speaking soundtrack on the DVD. Not a big deal, but you may want to keep this in mind when you start the disc, so that you don't scare the heck out of the neighbors. The English dubbing on this set is among the best I have ever experienced. The translations are excellent and conversational, unlike some other dubbings I have heard where the translations seem forced, and the conversations struggle to keep up with the pace of the video. Obvious care was put into this project, and even the actors who provide the dubbed dialogue stay in character and make it an enjoyable experience for the viewer. My only complaint here is that I would have enjoyed the additional option of subtitles, so that I could choose to listen to Bebel and Vallarino in their native language. Nonetheless, the expert dubbing allows you to keep your eyes on the performances, making it easy to follow along. What you get on volume two, much like on volume one, is about an hour spent as a "fly on the wall," looking in on a card session between the two masters. This is presented as a true session, where Bebel will open up with a version of a trick that he is working on, and then Vallarino will offer a variation on the theme, followed by another variation by Bebel, and so on. Their conversation offers critical discussion of the themes they explore, and performance psychology. They are also respectfully critical of each other as they discuss why one method may be better than another. This continues for the entire length of the DVD, which I found fascinating. Performance segments are then followed by clear and detailed explanations. Variations are offered and discussed throughout. There is obvious reverence for Marlo, Hamman, Jennings and fellow French magician Pierre Barclay, as they are referenced numerous times throughout the DVD. Quite a bit of the material on volume two is directly credited to, or a variation of Marlo. Vallarino even jokes about this, as it is clear that Marlo has had a great influence on Bebel's work.

Broken up into four chapters, volume two covers:

- Mexican 3 Card Monte
- Card Controls (some brilliant card switches and color changes here!)
- The Bluff Pass
- Ace Leader Routines

The DVD moves along at a comfortable speed, however the abrupt end to the last chapter, where it simply cuts off and returns to the high volume music on the main menu was startling. A better final edit would have helped here. Bebel and Vallarino have good chemistry, and are clearly comfortable sitting across the table from one another. The material selection on these DVDs is terrific. I enjoyed this volume every bit as much as I did volume 1, and I am greatly looking forward to volume 3 (if they ever get around to releasing it).

Available directly from Arteco Productions: <http://www.artecoproductions.com/inspiration-vol-two-by-bebel-and-jean-pierre-vallarino.html>