



## Words from the Secretary

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The newsletter needs you. I need articles and news events written by you. You do not have to be a member of the club to send articles to be publish. Send me emails([accolombel@zipcon.com](mailto:accolombel@zipcon.com)) on what you would like to see in the newsletter and what you like or don't about the newsletter. Visit our Facebook page and post. Come to the meetings and lectures. It is time for new officers for the upcoming year. **It is time to pay your dues. Dues helps the club bring lectures to the area.**

Everyone have a Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays.

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**Ring of Smoke Report**

No Ring of Smoke Meeting in Dec.

The Ring of Smoke meets the first Sunday of the Month at Shawn O'Donnell's in Everett.



## November Meeting Report

November's meeting theme was – **"Food and Betting"**

The yearly club's party was discussed, and we will be looking at holding it after the Holidays. There was a discussion of the members about performing for free and/or being asked to perform for exposure. There was a lot of opinions on when to perform for free. One good thing for performing for free is to get flight time in performing magic, a big plus to improve one's skills and to get comfortable in front of people. A lot depends on where you are at in your magic.

People were reminded of the Penguin Magic Expo, and an early reminder of the Portland Magic Jam in January.

The magic part of the meeting started with Tavalai Pedram asking for help and suggestions for a coin routine he was working on. He demonstrated the phase he was working on and club members got out their coins and work with him on different handling of the coins in the phase or the routine.

Rich Waters performed a card routine for the club. He took four Jokers and set them aside. He then had three cards selected and talked how magicians can use peeks to determine the cards. The three cards were then lost in the deck, the Jokers were placed on top of the deck and then cut to the middle. When the deck was spread the Jokers were face-up and the selected cards were next to the Jokers. This was based on a routine by Paul Richards.

Rich performed a second trick that was a 3 card Monte routine based on "In the Middle" by Mark Mason. People were informed that the club needs people to be officers to help run the club.

Craig Colombel performed a card trick in which the spectator performed the trick with the help of cards throughout the deck with printed instructions on them. This was a routine by Caleb Wiles called "Fully Automatic Card Trick". Payne showed a card trick he was working on. A card was chosen and lost in deck and when the magician finds the card it was the wrong card. Payne brought out posters with the 5 stages of grief and when he got to the last stage on the back of the poster was the chosen card.

Andrew Olmstead had a die and showed how the number on the sides change and added up to different numbers. He then repeated with 2 dice showing how the opposite sides change pips.

Payne took a card out of a deck and folded it into 4ths and placed in a large bulldog clip. He then had a color chosen by the audience, a suit, low or high then the value. He removed the chosen card from a different deck (i.e. one deck was blue backs and the other was red backs) and the card in the bulldog clip matched the chosen card.

Rich Waters performed a card trick that he uses at the restaurant he performs at. Card is chosen lost in deck and with much comedy and misses the card is in the deck face up.

Andrew performed a brief demo with cards being shuffled three times, and a 5-card stud hand is dealt out to 2 players with them getting top hands.

Come to a meeting a talk, see and demo magic.

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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>

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# Club Calendar

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## **NWRF – 2017 Meeting Themes**

January – Magician’s Choice – Bring your favorite magic to perform.

February – Discs or Improbable

March – Spheres or Description Based

April – Thin & Flat or Impossible

May – Fabric or Story Based

June – Outdoors or Something from Nothing

July – Filling the View or Rare

August – Books or Containers & Stuff

September – Prep for All Hallows’ Eve or Tests

October – Prep for Holidays or Short Betweeners

November – Food or Betting

December – Messages & Giving or Garden Paths

**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)**

### 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](http://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 where 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](http://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](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mark2061@yahoo.com)). It is a wonderful chance to perform for an appreciative audience. It's been standing room only all year.

If you wish to perform contact Mark at:

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

#### **"That's Impossible Presents" (Seattle's Best Magicians)**

That's Impossible Presents a Night of Magic, Mystery, and Comedy, with your host: Tim Flynn Magic.

2nd Saturday of Every Month. Hosted at Delancey's on 3rd in Renton. Doors open at 7:45, Stage Show begins at 9pm. Food & Drinks are available. Table-side magic before the show from real magicians!

# Yes And!

## By Phil Reda

As I am writing this I am finishing up an eight-week class in “Improv”. The classes were held in Bellingham at the “Up Front Theater “founded by Ryan Stiles.

“Improv” is an art form that goes back to the early 1500’s we’re a troupe of Italian performers traveled town to town performing in public squares. They would improvise their scenes with nothing written down. I would not be surprised that it goes back further than that, probably to a group of cavemen performing for their tribe acting out a scene from their last hunt.

So “Improv” is the art form of making a scene or story up on the spot. The scene or story lives or dies by the teamwork or lack thereof and ingenuity of the cast. When we hear the word “Improv” one thinks of comedy as seen on TV shows like “Who’s Line Is It”. But in it’s true form it can either be comedic or dramatic, it all depends on the direction the group decides to take scene. There are two forms of “Improv”, short form or long form. Short form is what most people are familiar with. A topic is chosen by the audience and a short scene, 1 to 2 minutes is created. Long form is where the cast creates a whole play or develops the story into several scenes.

As magicians you have probably heard performers talk about Jazz magic. Performing without a script or routine and just working to the audience. One master of this is Gregory Wilson. His magic is great, but it is his ability to work a crowd and adapt to any situation, this too is a form of “Improv”.

So, what was it like going to class. There were nine of us in class and we all had the same fear - “what am I going to say when it is my turn to speak”, “What if I am not funny” The instructor quickly put those fears to rest. First rule is not to try and be funny. The humor will automatically flow from the situation. And the main goal of the class was to learn to stop worrying about what to say and get out of your own head. I will talk more about that later.

Well the first class was devoted to warm-up games that teach you to loosen up and get comfortable working with your class mates, there were 9 of us. It was like day care for adults, we played different games designed to get you out of your head and into the moment. The two-hour class just flew by and at the end we were all laughing out loud and just getting plain silly.

The second class and going forward we would do 20 minutes of warm-up games to get everyone in the proper mind set for that day’s lesson. In “Improv 101” we briefly hit on all the key concepts. If we decided to continue with future classes they would be more heavily focused on areas such as advanced spontaneity, character development and story arc’s. But this eight-week class was an introduction.

So, what are some of the key lessons that I walked away with?

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1. "Yes and" - this is the cornerstone that "Improv" is built on. When your scene partner presents an idea you in turn mentally say "Yes". Then you say "and" which leads you to develop the idea further. "Yes And" is such a great life lesson. By saying yes, you open un-explored ideas and adventures. It is better to say Yes to Life than to say No. There have been several books written on this one key concept. The one that comes to mind is the best seller "The Year of Yes".
2. Embracing failure. In class you are taught to take the leap and trust in your teammates. One of the big lessons was Failure can lead to success. You say something stupid, but I wind up being the spring board to more creativity in the scene.
3. Pushing your comfort zone. The more you push that envelope the more comfortable you become operating on the edge and the envelope grows. But I warn you there are times when you are doing scene work you are pushed beyond that zone. Out of the nine of us that started the eight-week class three quit. One actually walked out of class third week into it. It is a lot of fun, but you are challenged each week
4. Getting out of your head and into the moment. Listening is a big skill they work on. Learning to listen to understand not listening to respond. In order to make a scene work you have to listen to your partner and be in the moment. Once you are out of your head and in tune with your scene partner you are freed up and is the key to thinking on your feet.

These are just a few of the lessons learned. Will I continue on for more training - Yes.

If you are looking for something to add to your performance tool box I would highly recommend taking an introductory course to this fascinating art form. There are classes available in Seattle at "Jet City Improv". The tools you will learn go well beyond performing as they apply to all areas of your life.

If you would like to read a great book on the key concepts check out "So You Think Your Funny?" Great intro to Improv.

<https://www.amazon.com/You-Think-Youre-Funny-Performing/dp/1566081734>

Have wonderful Holiday season and Happy New Year

## Hidden in Print... (2)

By Evan Shuster

I realize that I am taking some liberties in talking about DVDs under the header of “Hidden in Print,” however the purpose of this occasional article is to bring attention to our club library, which is composed of both books and videos. It can also be noted that quite a bit of the material found on the DVDs and VHS tapes was originally found in print.

In the mid 1990’s Michael Ammar released the first of what would become an incredibly popular, best-selling series of VHS tapes. Known as the “Easy To Master...” video series, these tapes set a new standard in video teaching, with broadcast quality film, the use of multiple camera angles, and the introduction of the now legendary “Super Practice Sessions.” The video series broke new ground, and established L&L’s video format and market leadership for years to come.

The performances were filmed in front of a studio audience (which L&L became famous for), and “stars” were made of the regular audience members who were seen in subsequent video releases.

The explanations were filmed separately from the performances, and Ammar’s teaching style was second to none, explaining every nuance and variation he could think of along the way. These were well scripted tapes, introducing magicians to a large library of previously published material by a who’s who of magic, and focused on a healthy combination of popular classics, and somewhat overlooked or forgotten material.

What began with a simple three-volume release of Easy To Master Card Miracles, ultimately grew to nine volumes over the course of the following decade, and other releases in the series covered topics such as Easy to Master Money Miracles, Easy to Master Thread Miracles, and Easy to Master Business Card Miracles. The tapes firmly established Ammar as one of the finest magic teachers of a generation, and set the bar high for those who followed.

The Northwest Ring of Fire proudly offers six volumes from the “Easy To Master...” series, along with Michael’s comprehensive two-volume course on the Cups & Balls.

Interested?

Details can be found on the library page of our website:

<http://nwringoffire.com/library.html>

Scroll down the page, and just beyond the rules you will find a complete list of available library materials.





### So much good news!

1) Our MONSTER LINEUP is in place: [David Stone](#), [Richard Osterlind](#), [Rocco Silano](#), & [Pop Haydn](#). are all coming to this year's PMJ! (It took 3 months to put together a lineup this fantastic!)

Stone is flying here from Paris; Osterlind is a master mentalist; Rocco is a master of elegant manipulation; and we're bringing back classic medicine-show marvel Pop Haydn because he's one of our all-time favorites!

2) [Registration is finally open!](#) We've already had 20 registrations since I announced this 2 days ago FB. **Don't delay**, because the current \$120 weekend price will be raised within a week. (Seriously, the \$120 Paypal button went up before I agreed to pay big bucks to fly Stone here from France. I'd change it now if it wasn't such a hassle!) *Remember you get a full refund if you prepay and need to cancel*

3) Our special [hotel room rate](#) at the **Airport Sheraton** is now available. It's good until Dec 22 or until they sell out our block. (Note there's another big group at the Sheraton that weekend.)

4) Both Rocco and Osterlind will be offering **extra-fee private workshops on Sunday**. The details (timing, price, length, min/max # of people) won't be finalized until the event weekend. We had great interest in Asi Wind's and Banachek's workshops last year!

5) Email me right away if you might be interested in a **David Stone private workshop** on Thurs night or Friday afternoon. (He has to fly home Sunday morning.) I have no info on any of the specifics.

See [www.PDXMagicJam.com](http://www.PDXMagicJam.com) for all this and more info, including the [Schedule](#), [Contest](#), [Dealer's Tables](#), and link to the [\\$15 Show Tickets](#).

Please help **spread the word** to all the magicians you know who will enjoy this great weekend! It's your support that's helped this grow to the iconic event it is today!