



Words from the Secretary

Craig Colombel

February 2014 – accolombel@zipcon.com

Greetings from your secretary, Craig Colombel and Happy New Year. We are looking for writers for the newsletter. Anything on your thoughts on magic, any performances you are doing, or conventions you have been to. See yourself in print. Send the articles to accolombel@zipcon.com.

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President's Message

Jim Rodgers -President 2014

Remember to pay your dues for 2014.

We had the Club's annual New Year's party on Sunday, January 26th. I was sorry to see that so many members didn't make it. It was great to see our Club members performing.

Today, I am setting a goal for the Club and issuing a Presidential Challenge. At our next New Year's party every member of the Northwest Ring of Fire will be performing. Now don't freak out, we have almost a year to get ready. I have a 'homework assignment' for each of you. Please put some thought into what magic you'd like to learn this year. Maybe you already have a specific trick in mind or a type of magic that excites you (close-up, parlor, stage, etc). That's great! Please come to the Club meetings with your ideas and let's see what we can do as a Club to make it happen.

I'd like our meetings to become a place where we all teach, learn and help each other. -A place where each member is performing, sharing or participating in some way. If other members don't have the expertise you need, we'll try to steer you to a book or video that will help. (We have a Club Library with a lot of good books and DVDs. Let's use it!) We can observe each other's performances, give useful feedback when it's needed and maybe have workshops or special sessions if necessary. I think this could all be a lot of fun.

The Northwest Ring of Fire is a MAGIC club. Magic is a performing Art. Let's get together next January and show our families what it is we do on Thursday nights!

January 2014 MEETING

January's theme was – Classics of Magic-Bring in Your Version of a Classic of Magic

The night started out with Tom Payne performing a rope routine. He talk about string theory and how it theorize many dimensions and starting with one string he produce 10 strings representing 10 dimensions. He then turned 10 strings into four strings representing the four common dimensions; length, width, height and time. He then finished the routine by turning the four strings into an endless rope representing quantum loops and entanglement.

Danny Dragon performed a routine that he was asking for feedback on. He then told us how he got interested in magic that it was because of his grandfather who was a magician. He then proceeded to perform his grandfather's favorite trick. Danny brought out a deck of cards, a pack of lunch bags and an empty whiskey bottle. Danny told us, as an aside, his grandfather's favorite part of the trick was emptying the whiskey bottle. Danny then asked for three volunteers and had one wrap the bottle in a paper bag and the others chose a card and return it to the deck and seal the deck in another bag. He then had the bag with the bottle and the bag with the cards squeezed to cause them to trade places. It looked like it did not work but when the bottle was unwrapped from the bag the chosen card was inside the bottle.

Jeff Simmons talked about how when someone loses one of the senses, i.e. if someone loses the sense of sight the other senses get better. He wanted to demonstrate how he improved his sense of hearing. He had a volunteer remove some change from their pocket and had them shake the coins in their hands. He then made a prediction: He would have the same amount in his hands as the volunteer, plus two quarters more, plus enough to bring the spectators amount by \$2.35. His predictions were correct.

Evan Shuster performed a trick that was not a classic, but the method was a classic. Had a volunteer cut to a card and place the cared face up then he had the spectator think of a color so the two cards made a new card. Evan then held his hands behind his back and had the volunteer deal cards one at a time into his hands, when told to stop the stop at card was the one made by using the other two cards. Evan taught how to perform the trick and told us the method was the classic, the Si Sibbens stack.

Joe performed a cups and balls routine with large balls as the final load. He then asked for critique on the routine.

Jim Earnshaw performed to music and with a black cloth and saltshaker made coins appear and vanish in the pouring salt.

Our new president, brought out a magic jeopardy game and divided the group into three teams and fun was held by all. This was a great evening, as we had so many performers in so many things going on that not everybody who came to perform was able to perform that night and will performed the next month.

Come to a meeting perform your tricks and watch others perform, learn magic and have fun.

REMEMBER, TO VISIT THE CLUB'S WEBSITE,
[HTTP://WWW.NWRINGOFFIRE.COM/INDEX.HTML](http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html)

And also visit the clubs Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northwest-Ring-of-Fire/429616737105973>

Reports from the "Ring of Smoke" the youth group associated with our club. Everyone should make a try to attend one of their meetings. A great group of young magicians.

The Ring of Smoke gathering on Feb. 9 was well attended and fun. While Bruce was sunbathing on the Big Island, Leo hosted the meeting and was assisted by Elliott, Logan and Zinger. Elliott worked on his color changing ball routine, and there was a spirited discussion about "outs." The kids discussed methods and fun ideas for making mistakes or problems during presentations into alternative tricks or entertainment. Several new members showed up as well to check out the magic activities. All of the kids had a great time jamming and showing off new tricks and ideas as well.

Ben and Marty

Giving Audience Members Cues By Ralph Huntzinger

Ralph will be giving a teach-in on the above title at a club meeting but was willing to share some of his notes from his draft. If you want to read all of what he has written (still a work in progress) go to <http://magickhappens.com/wp/?p=620> Below is some of his notes.

I have been commenting on many recent “workshop performances” that performers don’t seem to know how to let the audience know something magical is going to happen, it has happened, and then allowing the audience to give their reactions. We seem to rush through the actions not thinking about how to cue the audience to important parts of the routine. Opening my big mouth usually results in my having to demonstrate or teach the concept about which I am commenting — a teach-in at February 2014 Ring of Smoke meeting. So here are thoughts being gathered together for that presentation.

If the audience misses the magic happenings or is slow in recognizing it, you as a performer have failed. Our job is to help or actually make the audience recognize that magic has happened. The theatrical statement may be subtle but it has to be clear.

All great magical effects have a WOW factor, a moment where the reaction is “WOW”. That moment is easily recognized and it called “the Climax”. Climax is a technical term in theatrical and literary discussions and theories. Some examples of Wow Climaxes are: “she floated”, “a dozen swords passed thru his body”, he caught the bullet in his teeth”, “it was my signed card in the box all the time”, etc. We all want people to remember that moment. It is easily recognized and remembered in great effects, it is clear in good effects, and it should be recognizable in all effects.

There are two other places in an effect’s structure that accompany the Climax, the fallaciously called “nounces” — Announcement and Denouncement (they are not technically, linguistically, or even sound related, they just look like they are similar – one comes from messenger and the other from knot – but we all make up relationships and I feel they fit together). There is a phase or part announcing or setting up the Climax and there is the “letting down”, unraveling, or tying everything together in a whole part.

If you want to know more go to the above website or come to the next meeting.
Thanks Ralph for sharing.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014 NWRP Meeting Themes

February 13 – Sweetheart Magic – Tricks that always go well –or- the Magic that you just love to perform!

March 13 – Show me the Money! Magic with coins, bills, credit cards, checkbooks, etc.

April 10 – Unfinished Magic – bring in effects you haven’t finished yet, or that aren’t turning out like you want, and let’s workshop them! Maybe breathe new life into them!

May 8 – Magical Bookworm Night – Share one of your favorite magic books with the club. Bonus points awarded if you perform an effect from it!

June 12 – Not playing with a full deck – Tricks with a partial deck or just a few cards.

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)

**DON’T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR THE YEAR 2014. \$25 PER YEAR OR \$35 FOR A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP. BEING A DUE PAYING MEMBER GETS YOU DISCOUNTS TO THE LECTURES. Either come the meeting and pay or pay by Mail
Make check to NWRP (Northwest Ring of Fire) and send to:**

**Brian Melicher
15329 31st Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98087-2413**

Notes To Self

By Phil Reda

Scott Alexander – Penguin Live Christmas Lecture

As most of you know my taste's lean towards mentalism – but I still love good magic. I must have been living under a rock because I was not familiar with Scott Alexander or his magic. What a pleasant surprise, not only funny but entertaining and creative to boot. His lecture (4hours) covered close-up to stage material. Some items were performance only but most were taught. After seeing this lecture I wanted to breakout my chop cup. Scott is a full time working pro and spends most of his time performing on cruise ships.

Mr. Alexander is a student of magic as well as a student of theater and the synthesis provides a standard we should shoot for. One of the true values of this lecture is to see how Scott creates his material. He will mine old texts like Tarbell and then blend ideas from its pages and come up with something very clever.

His Russian Roulette style routine performed with a broken beer bottle was one of the best I have ever seen. This routine is so good Penn and Teller asked permission to add it to their act. Scott goes over the construction and performance. This not cheap to put together but if you are a working performer this could be a showstopper. Also his work with slush powder and the old water Monte is really good - again a 10, and one you can start doing right away. His opener is 20th century silks with a new twist and an audience explanation that when performed looks like trick photography – here is a clip of his routine: <http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/S14749> (he does show the workings in his lecture). This was another example of his creative methodology – when working on 20th century silks he read cover to cover *Rice's Encyclopedia of Silk Magic* – then combined old ideas to make them into new routines.

Here are a couple of other clips I found on “YouTube” that show his performance style- these are a couple of close-up effect. Of note the chop cup is taught in the lecture and again some very clever ideas.

Close-up Egg Bag:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZrFXR0Obu0>

Close-up Chop Cup (taught in lecture):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3NzbRWyyiA>

Slashed -his rope routine - (not taught)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsQzYi7eVKU>

Reviews by Payne

Make it Magic - Stage

Royalty Free Music

By Arthur and Leslie Stead

\$30.00

<http://www.arthurstead.com>

Music CD

Reviewed by Payne

Arthur Stead is a Grammy Award Winning musician who of late has set his talents to work, with the assistance of his wife Leslie to produce a line of Royalty Free music CD's for the working professional magician. Their most recent effort, "Make it Magic Stage" is the latest in their ever expanding "Make it Magic" series. The other recordings being "Make it Magic - Amazing Kid Show Magic" Volumes One and Two, "Make it Magic – Performance", "Make it Magic – Christmas" "Make it Gospel" and finally "Make it Spooky".

However since they only sent along "Make it Magic – Stage" for evaluation I will limit my review to this single volume of their opus of musical work.

The CD contains eleven tracks of music to be used as Openers or as musical accompaniment for various types of magical routines. These range in running time from 2:31 to 5:04 in length and run the gamut from a rather retro like Las Vegas Opener type of composition to a Mission Impossible tribute piece called "Mission Feasible". There more than likely is something here for everyone but since the music is of a wide variety of styles and themes one might not find more than a track or two that is useable for use in the same show. For the curious the titles of the other tracks are "Adrenaline Rush", "Lance's Trance", "Magic Fever", "Class Act", "Guillotine", "Bending Metal", "Backstage Pass", "Speed Freak" and "Initiation".

I myself found some of the song styles to be a little dated and not quite as cutting edge as one is used to seeing in performances these days. But several of the tunes are quite workable and would be especially useful for competition acts as there is little worse than being the seventh act in the lineup to come out and do their routine to the ever popular "Sing Sing Sing".

There are also three tracks provided for Interludes or Volunteers (1:43, 2:04 and 2:27 in length) and three short tracks (:33,:42 and 1:02) entitled Magical Moments. These allow you to spice up those awkward bits of silence one often finds oneself left with when plucking willing spectators out of the audience to help you up on stage or allowing those same helpers time to return to their seats after assisting you.

So if you're looking for Royalty Free music to escape the hassle of ASCAP or just looking for music to separate you from the rest of your competition "Make it Magic" is a good place to start looking and listening.

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 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

910 NE Minnehaha St. Ste 1
Vancouver, WA 98665

1-888-360-6244

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM

Seattle Juggling and Magic Shop located at 9460 Rainier Ave South, Seattle, WA 98118 206-859-8363, with a Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/SeattleMagicShop> and on the web at <http://SeattleJuggling.com>

Magical happenings

That's Impossible

Tim Flynn is looking for performers, If interested contact Tim at 206-290-7767 or on Facebook at notification+khiuhkim@facebookmail.com

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.

Feb:

Michael Jacobs

Tom Boland

Jim Earnshaw

Master Payne

Mark Paulson (MC)

Mar:

Jim Earnshaw (MC)

Mark Paulson

Eddie Mendoza

Danny Dragon

Master Payne

If you wish to perform contact Mark at:

mark2061@yahoo.com or on Facebook at

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

The Family Entertainers Workshop is returning to the Seattle area April 25-27th. For more information go to the website at

www.FamilyEntertainersWorkshop.com

More info to come.

Diamond Jim Tyler has offered to donate some material from his upcoming book *Bamboozlers Three*. For the next couple of months I will print them here. More information on the book can be found at www.diamond-jim.com/originals This is the last of what Diamond Jim Tyler sent. Hope you enjoyed the series

Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betches, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters & Bewitchery: Volume Three by Diamond Jim Tyler is due out June of 2013.

Expect the same classy style pocket-sized book. It contains 75 effects with over 100 illustrations and is bound in green faux leather, with silver gilt edges, silver foiled stamping and has a ribbon marker. The foreword of the book is by Mac King. The book will be sold exclusively at www.diamond-jim.com/originals for \$19.95.



HEAD FOR DRINKING

BET: Set-up two small glasses as in Fig. 1. Bet someone they cannot drink the drink without using their hands. Instruct them that the uppermost empty glass cannot touch the table. Tell them that they cannot use any sort of tools and must only use their body from the neck up.

SECRET: First use your chin and neck to grip the uppermost glass and wedge it there (Fig. 2). Secondly, you can lift the filled glass with your teeth and slowly tilt your head to drink it.

Executing this stunt will typically draw a small crowd. Select a married man from the group and say to him, *"If you pull this off then I can almost guarantee that it will garner more applause than you received on your honeymoon night!"*



Northwest Ring of Fire Holiday Party

On January 26th the club held its annual Holiday Party at Shawn O'Donnell's restaurant. There was a great pasta meal to enjoy. The new officers of the club for the year 2014 were introduced. President Jim Rodgers, Vice President Danny Dragon, 2nd Vice President Ralph Huntzinger, Treasure Brian Melicher, and Secretary Craig Colombel. The Brisbane Award was presented to Evan Shuster. The Magician of the Year Award was not at the dinner so I will wait until the award is presented before announcing the winner.

Entertainment was provided by the officers of the club.

Ralph Huntzinger performed a Linking rings with rope routine. Craig Colombel performed a dollar in a lemon. Evan Shuster performed a prediction routine with a preset board with cards on it and members of the audience determining where the other cards went and when reverse all matched. Danny Dragon performed a routine on how he got the better of his cousin Bruno from the Bronx, with counting bills and Find the Queen.

Jeff Dial told us about how magic is an art. He first showed stick drawings and told us what they were, then a picture of Napoleon was shown to have the selected card inside his vest.

Payne performed to the music of the Nutcracker, performing a chop cup and balls using walnuts and ending with a potato. He had a toy Nutcracker as his assistant.



To see more pictures go to our facebook page at

<HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/NORTHWEST-RING-OF-FIRE/429616737105973>