



Words from the Secretary

Craig Colombel

February 2015 – accolombel@zipcon.com

We need people to come to the club meetings, learn how to perform a slight, practice a new routine or effect, or session with another magician. 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.

Meeting Place

As mention last month we are now meeting at a new place. The new meeting place is:

Richmond Beach Library

19601 21st Ave. NW

Shoreline, 98177

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

The theme for the night is Cards

The link to Mapquest map is below

<http://mapq.st/1DVUe4V>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Secretary's Message
- 1 New Meeting Place
- 2 January Meeting
- 3 Ring Of Smoke
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 4 Review by Payne
- 5 Magic Happening and others
- 6 Notes by Ralph Huntzinger

DUES

It is now dues time, they are \$25/ year. Pay your dues to the treasure at the meeting or send them to your secretary

Craig Colombel

509 So 165 th

Burien, WA 98148

Paying your dues and becoming a member helps the club bring lectures for the members.

If you missed the Yearly/Holiday party next month I will have a write up about the party.

See you then.

Craig Colombel

January 2015 MEETING

January 8 – Firsts – Perform the first trick you learned, bought, or knocked ‘em dead with – or- perform a trick for the first time!

Jim Rodger brought out a deck of cards in new deck sequence and each card had a number written on the back. The first two volunteers were told a card and ask to think of a number. The third volunteer was given a number from Jim and ask to think of a card. Jim showed that all the numbers and cards matched what the volunteers were thinking of.

Andrew Olmstead had a bag of pairs of socks and talked about how when one wash socks there was always one missing from the pair. He had two volunteers come up and gave them each a bag, He then separated the pairs of socks and divided the pair of socks between the two bags. At the end he removed one sock from one bag and place it into the other. But when the socks were counted the bag that received the extra sock was short and the bag that the sock was removed from had all matched pairs. This was a clever way to perform the piano trick.

Ralph Huntzinger had a wooden box with a hole drilled though all sides and each side was a different color. He had someone think of a color and then turned the block on its edges and ask if the person could see his color. He did this several times and then determine the color thought of. This was based on an effect by Eric Lewis(Die Vination)

Steve Tichi talked about his magical childhood, he had a box and proceeded to take out items from his childhood. This included 2 red scarfs from his early magic work, a train, and an erector set house. He covered the house and train with one scarf and produce a Batman figure, a ball and vase and a rubber snake. Using the other scarf he performed a ball and vase routine. He finished with a short ball routine ending with the ball changing color.

Payne demonstrated a new utility form John Allen called Perfect Score. It is a device to score playing cards so doing Mercury folds become easier and cleaner.

Payne then took a bottle of water and two pills one red one blue. After some reference to Matrix he placed the blue pill in the bottle of water. After it dissolved he turned it upside down in his hand then remove his hand and the water did not spill out. But the blue pill came out of the bottle. This was Water Works by Paul Harris. We then had the drawing for some prizes.

Come to a meeting and show off your magic.

Remember, to visit the club's website, <http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html>

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

Ring of Smoke Report

The Feb. 8 Ring of Smoke meeting was a very well attended meeting at Shawn O'Donnells. JR, Mark and Ralph joined the kids and led the group. They discussed favorite magicians as well as TV shows including the latest episodes of Wizard Wars. They also discussed how to always be prepared to do a series of magic tricks by carrying something easy to transport. John showed a new spelling card trick that he received, and Elliott showed an outstanding linking ring routine. The kids broke up into a couple of groups with some of the older kids working on sleights and card magic, while others worked on tricks for newer magicians. A great time was had by all!

Ben and Marty

For those at the meeting Linae took Photos and posted them on her Facebook page. She also took pictures of the January dinner party

<https://www.facebook.com/lgraupmann>

Thanks Linae

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NWRF – 2015 Meeting Themes

January 8 – Firsts – Perform the first trick you learned, bought, or knocked 'em dead with –or- perform a trick for the first time!

February 12 – Card Magic

March 12 – 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!

April 9 – Apparatus, Props and Gaffs

May 14 – Go force and conquer – Force a card, number, color, word, etc.

June 11 – Coin Magic

July 9 – Magic with Rope, String, Cord or Ribbon

August 13 – Magic with Silks (or any sort of handkerchief)

September 10 – Impromptu Magic

October 8 – Magic with Paper – Newspaper, slips of paper, note cards, stationery, origami paper – any sort of Paper!

November 12 – On the Ball – Magic with any kind of Ball - Baseballs, Tennis balls, Billiard balls, rubber balls, cork balls, Sponge balls, Marbles

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)

Shufton's Portal

David Regal

A curious gateway to a land of little balls

Available From <http://www.davidregal.com>

\$60.00

Reviewed by Payne

So what do you get when you mix Jerry Andru's Zone Zero with a little bit of Al Wheatley's Chop Cup and a pinch of a Coin Board thrown in for good measure? You get yourself a Shufton's Portal.

So what exactly is a Shufton's Portal? Well try to imagine a tiny (6" X 4") Zone Zero that you can use close up in a table hopping or strolling situation.

The premise is pretty much the same as Mr. Andrus's original inception. A black plastic board with a hole in its center is fairly shown on both sides, or even passed out for examination. After the performer's hands are shown empty a small crochet covered ball is visibly pulled out of the center of the hole. This ball can be made to vanish, change colour, turn invisible or even multiply, all at the whim of the magician. Balls can even be produced from the hole while a spectator holds onto the portal. It's a very versatile prop from which many clever and original routines are sure to spring. Plus you're not limited to just producing balls. Coins, poker chips, candy, plastic bugs, bottle caps or any small object (after it has been properly shimmed) could be used with this prop to make interesting and innovative routines. This is something that many clever magicians are going to have a great time creating new routines for.

Yes, it is a black plastic board with a hole in it that looks like nothing like anything you'd see outside of a magic shop. So those purists who feel that everything a magician employs in his act should look like something one would find in the "real" world should therefore steer well clear from this effect. Let those of us who can concoct a compelling storyline or justification for just about anything we decide to use in our performances have fun with this. And we most certainly will.

For those wanting to start right out of the gate and not have to develop a unique presentation for this prop it comes with an instructional DVD with five different routines. This well produced DVD also clearly teaches a wide variety of moves made possible by the clever construction of The Portal. Mr. Roth takes the viewer through the various vanishes, appearances, as well as showing many ways to secretly load and steal objects from the board. Clearly a lot of thought has gone into the many things that can be done with this versatile prop.

But there are some drawbacks. The balls I found to be rather small, being about a half inch in diameter. This might not be a problem for most but anyone with large hands might have trouble handling them. I know I did.

It is also a bit angely (there are even a couple of inadvertent flashes made on the DVD) which will make some of the moves problematic in a walk around situation. I also felt the board could be constructed a little better. It appears to be made out of Sintra, an expanded PVC product, with a light plastic laminate contact cemented on top and bottom. I'm not too sure how durable this will be as after a few days of playing with mine the laminate started coming up on one corner. I also felt it was a little too thick and that this could lead the spectator to think the balls were somehow hidden inside the board. Perhaps a deluxe version constructed out of exotic hardwoods will eventually be offered up for sale (hint hint).

But these minor complaints aside this is an innovative little prop that you can have a lot of fun with. It comes with the Portal, 5 crocheted balls (2 white 1 red, 1 green and 1 yellow) a plastic spot card (used in a couple of the routines and an instructional DVD).

Reset is a snap as many of the routines do so themselves and the whole thing fits easily into a jacket pocket so what's not to like?

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

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

Brian Cook's

WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM

Seattle Juggling and Magic Shop

9460 Rainier Ave South,
Seattle, WA 98118
206-859-8363

<http://SeattleJuggling.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/SeattleMagicShop>

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.

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

Notes by Ralph Huntzinger.

This is the start of a series of short articles by Ralph covering the theme of each month's meeting. Others are welcome to contribute to this page.

Steinmeyer's Sudoku

This is a post from Ralph's Blog. It is a work in progress and he gave me permission to give you a brief overview. If you wish to read the full article go to <http://magickhappens.com/wp/?p=712>

From the very beginning I was intrigued with Jim Steinmeyer's "Triumph Sudoku" (*Technique & Understanding, New Approaches for Stage Illusionists*, 2009, Hadne, pgs. 121-132). Perhaps it was the numbers, the magic square-ishness, or the clever method; I could see myself sitting isolated alone in the audience and enjoying it. I could not find an inner reason for personally presenting this illusion. All that kept coming through was a sense of bragging and showing off a complex puzzle — "See what I can do, I can do something you can't do, I'm smarter than you." How could I help an audience connect and enjoy something like that, even if it was clever?.....

Brief description of effect — 3x3 square grid is populated with 9 digits in random order solicited from audience, then 72 places of a Sudoku board are rapidly filled in except for 3x3 square which is audience's square. Then the rows and columns are shown to have all the 1 – 9 digits and the nine 3 x 3 squares also use all the digits.

In an embryonic sense this construction approach worked, suggesting an underlying message and a feeling that could be taken away regardless of the "puzzle-ness and how did he do that" nature of the effect.

Message: fondly remembering (the quirks of loved ones) helps keep ability to remember.

Vehicle: observing methods used by others to combat creeping forgetfulness, tips for keeping mind sharp.

Feeling: the value of family memories.

The illusion and apparatus are only props to support the storyline, message, and feelings. The character admits he needs outside help — from a deceased family member. Here are notes on both the design-construction aspects and the presentation, feeling, and message. One of the values of Steinmeyer's writings is his leading and forcing the reader to look at the theatrical and musical dimensions of performing "illusions" and only regard the big hardware and fiddling as scenery that surrounds performance.

I won't reveal Steinmeyer's method (mechanics, secret, or trick) since that's his creative property — enough said!

Construction notes

— I had taken the long aluminum pieces, basically 1 1/2" square, from a broken camp cot and figured someday I'd use them or throw them out; (4) 39" pieces and (2) with 30" of usable length. Easily could create a 30"+ frame with 9" big squares and 3" inner squares. Would have (2) 39" plus (2) 9" scraps to use for the uprights. Just needed to create base, wheels, and writing surface. *Reality Note: frame was easy part, everything else became complicated because had to be physically stable when turning structure back and forth to audience. Temporarily decided to prop frame up on stool with a back, cover surface with paper, and use permanent marker instead of wipe-off marker. Permanent marker became incorporated into script highlighting difficulty (not erasing or going back).*

See next page

— write-on surface is thin plastic paneling used as covering for areas that might get wet like counters in bathrooms and kitchens, Formica. It is attached with construction adhesive.

— the framed write-on surface can be divided into three. The framing on top and bottom can be permanently attached (with needed sequence keys) and the side framing would stabilize the assembled unit. Pins on the top and bottom of the middle section would align it to the other two and add additional stability. Bolting on the frame sides and upright would complete the stability.....

Presentation notes

— the key, when looked at alphabetically, is three groups of three; stage-right, then stage-left, and middle (A then shift to B & C: BCA; D then shift to E & F: EFD, GHI → resulting in EFD, GHI, BCA) — *I feel like an alchemist making that statement.*

— There are 387,880 possible random 9 digit numbers using 1-9 and not repeating any digits, of those there are 8 possible “magic squares” (all directions of 3×3 grid adding to 15), giving a 1:43,435 chance of this happening; although very slight, this possibility in the first part of the routine should be in the back of the mind.

— the combination of remembered sequences of numbers, leaving the 9 x 9 square empty, and keeping the script interesting during the filling in actions contribute to a challenge. Modifying Jim’s method with logical blocks of numbers might help. Perhaps the board does not need to be turned from the audience — instead blocking the view with the body and selective “blocking out of moves” might work. Body is turned from audience so voice projection and appearance (stance) is important. The action is both boring and confusing so the story and script could hold all the attention with emphasis returned to the board at selective times.....

Scripting and blocking

There are “natural” breaks in the action of filling in the big grid where the board can be turned to show progress. I decided on four breaks to make it easier to remember, give a rhythm, and to break up the monotonous obscured action. The script was crafted to add thought to those obscured-action times; after the first “show progress” pause those breaks were used to provide tips on memory sharpening. The script has one memory thought to each phase except the final filling in has two stories to highlight “something has happened”. The first break showing three columns filled in (1st, middle, 8th — left to right) has enough interest with just the numbers; the other three phases fill in 2 columns which moves faster. The 2nd breaks shows two more columns in the middle (3rd & 4th); the 3rd has columns to the right and left edges (7th & 2nd); and the final has all completed (6th & 9th).

The highlighting of columns has four, moving left to right and back to center (1st, 7th, 9th, & 4th). The rows have three going bottom to top (8th, 2nd, & 1st). The square highlighting again moves left to right and then randomly (1st, 3rd, 5th, ...).

There is a small climax when the almost completed board is shown to audience. The climactic sequence is helped with the highlighting tools, but the laying down of the tools with the words “That’s Sudoku” is the point of release of expectations. The two ‘thank you’s’ are appreciation points. Needless to say, no milking for applause since this character is not showing off, is pleased it worked successfully, and these aspects combine to show competence and skill.

Ralph Huntzinger

The above was to give you a taste of how Ralph forms a routine. If you want to learn more and read the complete article go to his blog at <http://magickhappens.com/wp/?p=712>