

The Northwest Ring of Fire

July 2011

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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. I am looking for articles for the newsletter. You can help make this a great newsletter.

President's Message

A message from your President Master Payne

Well it seems that summer is finally here. Or at least was here for a few minutes last week. And speaking of last week I would like to thank everyone from our club who participated in the PCAM\CAM Convention in Vancouver BC last week. Our club was very well represented and many of our membership competed in the various contests. Sterling Dietz took first place in close with his innovative and unique LEGO cups and balls routine. A routine so innovative that he also took home the Innovative trophy as well. Zach Daniels won the One Hand Cut a Thon and the Peoples Choice SAM'S Slickest One Hand Cutter. He also took First Place in the Juniors Stage Contest and Matt Well's brought home the gold in the Junior Stage Contest. Leo Kanzelberger Took home Silver in Junior Stage and Close Up and finally Logan Earle came in Third in the Bag O' Tricks contest. We're also very well represented on and behind the stage as well. Brian Cook ran tech for many of the shows and provided the PCAM with the lights for the stage in the Hotel. And you're President (hey, that's me!) Was in the Friday Night Champion's of Magic Show, The Children's Entertainers Showcase appearing alongside Silly Billy and Mike Bent two of the world's Premiere Children's Entertainers. Payne also was in the Sunday Close Up Show and participated in a panel on the Art of Children's Family entertaining. We should all be very proud to belong to a club that can front such a formidable pack of contestants, performers and tech. As well as worthwhile folk who just show up to attend the convention and have a great time participating in the events. Good Job everyone!

And now for a somewhat serious note.

As great as the PCAM\CAM MAGIC Convention was it suffered from a lack of attendees. This was in part because recently, our friends to the north, The Vancouver Magic Club suffered a recent series of, shall I say, unpleasantness. I'm not one to air their dirty laundry or go into all the minute details of what transpired. Let us just say that they suffered from a bout of political infighting and many of their officers were forced out. Actions of this sort always factionalize a group and often lead to the demise of said organizations. I in no way wish to imply that the Vancouver Club is in any danger of imploding. They will be with us, and a vital member of the magic community in the Pacific Northwest for a very long time to come. It's just that due to internal strife they have potentially lost some of their long time members.

I only bring this matter up to address a situation once again rising in our own organization. There are those who think that such a situation could not occur in our happy little club. But those who have been in the Lynnwood Ring of Fire for any length of time knows that it has happened in the past In fact our club was formed by a group of folk dissatisfied with the state of magic and magic clubs in the Seattle area. Yes, it has happened in the past, and I fear it is happening again.

It has been brought to my attention that recently a small faction of our club has very vocally voiced their discontent with the direction our club has been taking my role as president and the actions of our officers. These individuals have stated that none of our officers are doing their jobs correctly.

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President's Message continue:

Now I freely admit that I am not a great and dynamic President. That I approach the job in a fairly laissez faire manner and am pretty much just a place holder until a more qualified applicant comes forward to take the reigns of the club. But then I was quite clear about my lack of leadership abilities when I stepped up to the office and only took the reigns of power because no one else wanted the position. If you have problems with me and the way I am running the club come forward and tell me. Don't do so behind my back and don't demean the efforts of our officers. Especially if you're an individual who has never sacrificed any of your time to actually hold an office in our club.

It's all too easy for a club to get mired in politics. Especially when there are certain individuals who have nothing better to do but meddle, back stab and rumor monger. People who loudly voice their discontent, as long as the person they are defaming isn't in the room. People who would rather tear down a group than step forward to offer a helping hand.

Unfortunately this has been a long going issue in the Lynnwood Ring of Fire. Over the years many individuals have told me that they no longer participate in the club due to the actions and meddling of this tiny faction. Most of us however have just come to accept that every group has its malcontents and we have just come to ignore them.

Unfortunately actions have consequences. This last diatribe was overheard by a candidate for my replacement. This individual has since taken his hat out of the ring telling me that if there are going to be people that have nothing better to do than push themselves forward or complain about what is going on behind people's backs; I think I don't want that headache.

So currently we no longer have a candidate for the office of President. Our treasurer's position is also in need of filling and candidates are not forthcoming. Most likely because of the same reasons. After all who wants to be bad mouthed and back stabbed for simply trying to help out?

So thanks to the actions of a few wannabes after the first of the year our club will most likely simply cease to exist as we will not have the requisite officers to maintain our standing as a club.

We are all in this together and the club is only as strong as it's weakest links. It's better to be part of the solution and not the problem. If you've got a problem talk to me about it to my face. Don't potentially damage the club by complaining behind my back. Not only does it make one look sad, pathetic and petty by doing so. It keeps the viable members (the ones who actually do the work) at our club from stepping up to the plate

See you Thursday.

July 2011 Meeting:

Business portion: There was discussion on the Day of Magic. For those who did not see the newsletter last month, it will be held in Everett on Oct 14th and 15th with the evening show on the 15th at 7:30. There will be an "Anything Goes" Contest, open to the first 10 people.

The cost of the convention is \$65 until September 15th then it goes to \$85 and at the door it will be \$95. The Saturday show only will cost \$10 for the general public. It will be held at the Everett Performing Arts Center except for the Friday show which will be at Shawn O'Donnell's. Performing on the Saturday show will be

David Regal, Shawn Farquhar, Oscar Munoz, Christopher Bange, and Matt Baker. More information on the Ring of Fire Website.

Our President, Payne was not at the meeting as he was performing at a movie theater before the release of the last Harry Potter movie.

Magic portion: At the beginning of the meeting slips of paper were handed out and people were asked to write down their Go To Trick. The one you perform when someone asks you to do a trick. The slips were collected at break for later in the meeting.

Jim performed a coin routine. Three coins appeared at his fingertips, then one by one vanished, then reappeared and vanished to empty hands.

Bruce brought out a leather and wood case. He did a short talk about the Ring of Smoke before performing. He then removed from the case a clear plastic box and a blue handkerchief. He said there was a ghost in the clear box, open the top and covered the box with the blue handkerchief. After which, an invisible object rose out of the box under the handkerchief. Bruce flipped the handkerchief up to show there was nothing but the invisible ghost under the handkerchief. After some by-play the ghost was returned to the box and the box closed. Bruce then asked the group to give suggestions on his routine.

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Meeting report Continues:

Mark brought out five boxes colored red, green, blue, yellow and orange. He told a story about Einstein working on psychic phenomenon to earn extra money. Mark had a spectator pick a card demonstrating the randomness of the universe. He then pull out a Zodiac wheel and ask the spectator to pick his birth month. Reversing the card there were color blocks and moved from block to block the number of the spectator's birth month. The color chosen was yellow and the yellow box was pick up from the table. The yellow box was open and the spectator found inside the box was the card that was chosen. The other boxes were open and found to have money in them and the last box had a picture of Einstein.

Jeff Dial performed a trick with a deck of cards and a smart phone. He shuffled the deck face up and down and offered the choice of the first six face down cards or the first six face up cards. The cards were chosen and the values added together. The total was 42. He then Google on the smart phone “ what is the answer to life, the universe and everything?” and the answer return was 42.

Danny Dragon did a silent routine opening a box and removing three Chinese coins and a silk ribbon. He threaded the coins on the ribbon and made the coins melt off the ribbon. He then vanished all three coins and they reappeared in the box.

There was then a discussion about what people wrote on the pieces of paper as their go to trick and a great discussion about impromptu magic and presentations.

After the meeting many of the members went to Maddox for food, drinks and more magic.

Come and see what you are missing. Great magic and great fun. Remember this is where you can work through your new routines.

Don't forget the Club Picnic at Bruce and Jennifer's House on Labor Day.

NW Ring of Fire's Summer Picnic Swap Meet and Magic Extravaganza



**Labor Day
September 5th
From 3:00PM until ...??**



Rain or Shine

Lynnwood Magic Ring will supply barbecue ribs and chicken, soft drinks, condiments & paper plates, chocolate fondue.

You Bring your family and



Something to dip in the chocolate fondue such as fruit, cake, etc.



Your parlor and close up magic. There will be a parlor stage area and close-up too!



Anything Goes Magic Competition & Contest with PRIZES!



Your own table or box or blanket or something if you want to sell stuff. There will be a covered area if it rains. Bring some chairs if you can.

At Bruce & Jennifer Meyers' home on beautiful Crabapple Lake. There will also be fishing, magic, canoe, magic, fishing boat, magic swimming and magic.