

# The Northwest Ring of Fire

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Secretary's Message
- 2 President's Message
- 3 June 2010 Meeting
- 4 Magic Review
- 5 Ralph's Musings
- 6 Reports on the Members
- 7 What If It's Not In Tarbell?

## Secretary's Message

Greetings from your secretary, Craig Colombel. We will have a guest writer Ralph Huntzinger with abstracts from his blog. If you want more the link to his blog is at the end of the article. Again if you know of any magic events or performances or are performing yourself let me know and I will place it into the newsletter. One of these days I will get this done early.

## President's Message

*A message from your President Master Payne*

Greetings fellow Magi's

Hope your summer is going great and everyone had a safe and sane Fourth of July. Our monthly magic meeting is earlier than usual this month, being that the first was a Thursday and all. So I thought I'd take this opportunity to remind everyone that the July meeting is this Thursday the Eighth.

There is a matter of great import to one and all of our membership that needs to be immediately addressed. In fact the very survival of our club is at stake. Thus it is imperative that everyone who truly values our club make every effort to show up at this all important next meeting so your voice can be heard regarding this impending change. All right, I made that last bit up. Everything's fine and no immanent and perilous threat awaits us on the horizon. I just didn't have much of anything of interest to relate unto you all this month so I thought I'd spice things up a bit.

Still you could pretend that the very existence of our club was in peril and come to the next meeting all invigorated to save it by showing the membership a new trick or two. I've got a couple of new things to field test before reviewing them for our competing sister organization. See you all Thursday

**Also From our President, This is an email he received to pass on:**

Hi,

First, I would like to apologize for contacting you like this but i found you on the magician's cafe and found out there is no way for me to sign up.

My Name is Randy, I used to do amateur magic, mostly for kids, family, and friends many years ago. I recently moved back into my old apartment that was above my moms laundry business which she closed 2 years ago. I am setting up my business (custom window treatments and upholstery) where her laundry was and have cleaned out and am remodeling what was a huge storage space above. I found almost two dozen old photos of lesser known stars, all signed.

I have one of Jay Palmer and his Magic Kettle that I thought you or one of your colleagues may be interested in. I also have two of the Great George Dexter. I believe they are all from about the mid 1940's. Some of the other photos were signed and dated 1942. If you or any of your colleagues would be interested in either of these photos, please let me know. I would be happy to send a pic for you or them to see.

Thank you for your time,

Randy Christner  
RDChristner@aol.com

## **June 2010 Meeting:**

At the meeting we have performances, lectures or teach a trick by one or more of the members and on some nights something special. Come and see what you are missing.

Business: The next lecture will be Joshua Jay on July 17<sup>th</sup> at Shawn O'Donnell's Restaurant at 122 128<sup>th</sup> St SE, Everett, WA. The lectures the club sponsors are great for learning how to be a better magician and to get tips from the pros. Member Jim Kemp died in April. He lived in Everett and used to come to all the meetings before getting on in years. He was known for his mechanical aptitude in making magic props. He was also known for his artwork and was a cartoonist for the Seattle Times and the Everett Herald Newspapers. Brian Cook shared some artwork by Jim with the club, and he shared stories about Jim. One in particular was that Jim would pay for drinks using drawings he did on napkins. Anyone who knew him and wish to have more written about him send me, your secretary, your thoughts and they will be published. If you have any of his artwork or items he made please bring them to the July meeting. The club will hold a broken wand ceremony for him.

The club's picnic will be at Bruce Meyer's house on Labor Day September 6<sup>th</sup>. The picnic will include and Swap Meet and a show at 3pm.

Payne gave a report on the new Tom Stone book "Vortex". He said it was excellent and a book to have on your shelf. The chapter on how to move from close-up to stage was worth the price of the book.

Ralph Huntzinger invited the club to attend the Renaissance fair in Richland, WA June 26-27. He will be performing with other magicians.

Ralph also talked about his plans to get more people involved in the Tree Lighting ceremony in Lynnwood, Wa. He suggested that members work on walk around magic to perform at the ceremony. At least three tricks, all easy reset. He suggested the first be something for one to gain attention, then the second for two, then the last for many. He demonstrated his trick for one which was making a silk flower. He asked that the members work on the first trick for the next meeting.

Lecture: Payne gave a lecture and demos on different Nest of Boxes. He had a Tenyo coin box in a nest, some Johnson products, a wood version of a popper box and others. He discussed the pros and cons of each type and how they developed and how he uses the props. Payne mentions that he has a preference for those that do not require the box leaves the view of the audience. He demonstrated one that was a box, bag, with a ball of silk ribbon with the watch attached to the ribbon. He talked about a traditional method using the boxes on a table with the help of an assistant. He then showed his version of the Tommy Wonder's version of the table that did not need an assistant.

Performances: Hugh performed a card trick. It involved a story about fishing in Hawaii and how a native Hawaiian caught more fish using a wood traditional fish hook. After losing the card he produced a traditional Hawaiian fish hook and use the hook to find the card.

Matt performed with a ribbon with three Chinese coins threaded on it and proceeded to melt the rings off the ribbon. Each time he used a different audience member and had the magic happen in their hands.

Remember come to the meetings and see and learn magic. Also enjoy great company and do a trick. The meetings are a great place to practice that new routine. Here you can goof and learn.

The Club's unofficial motto is: "This may or may not work"

After

After the performances the meeting was adjourned and those that wanted to went to Maddox's for refreshments.

If anyone wants to add to the meeting notes send to me and I will add in the next newsletter. My email address is at the bottom of each page of the newsletter.

Thanks

Craig

## Magic Reviews

Payne has graciously donated some reviews of magic, he did for MUM Magazine. I will print one per newsletter issue.

### **Sigillum Diaboli**

Alan Rorrison

DVD

\$25.00

Big Blind Media

<http://www.bigblindmediausa.com>

Reviewed by Payne:

There is a scene in Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* where the protagonist is asked what his thoughts were of a new and improved puppet play he had just witnessed. A disappointed Tom replies ". . .for all that; and so far from improving, I think, by leaving out him (Mr. Punch) and his merry wife Joan, you have spoiled your puppet-show." If one could bring indomitable Mr. Jones forward in time to the Twenty-First century so he could witness Alan Rorrison's version of Ray Walton's classic effect Card Warp I'm sure his response would have been ". . .so far from improving, I think, by leaving out the extra card, you have spoiled your magic trick"

Sigillum Diaboli is a single card Card Warp. While this idea isn't new, Robert Neale experimenting with it in *Magic and Meaning* and David Jenkins having developed Warp One to name a few, Mr. Rorrison's version is truly a monothematic development as not only has he gotten rid of the second card he's done away with the second hand as well. To those magicians with a "run while no one is chasing you mentality" this may sound like a stunning improvement. But to your average audience member, who has never thought about the pro's and con's of the various possible permutations of a Card Warp presentation, it doubt it really matters. Additionally, using a single card in a single hand saddles this version with some major presentational issues.

Where Warp One's transpositions are smooth as the extra hand allows the necessary masking required making the transitions fluid and visually magical, Sigillum Diaboli's changes are quick and jerky which makes the routine not only far less visually mystifying but unneededly suspicious in the eyes of the audience. The quirky movements give the impression that you're doing something tricky rather than simply allowing the magic to occur.

Both Card Warp and Warp One are simple and direct in their presentation. Cards are freely shown, folded and then magically turn themselves inside out. Sigillum Diaboli because of its methodology comes with a lot of unnecessary baggage.

First a spectator is asked to select a card but curiously is not allowed to see its identity. The card is then moved to the top of the deck and then – still keeping its identity secret -- is folded in quarters. The magician then tells the spectator that the identity of their card will be revealed in a strange and curious way by using an ancient mark called the Sigillum Diaboli (the Seal of the Devil in old English). The magician fumbles around for a Sharpie and then has the spectator sign one end the folded card. Anyone who may be suspicious that the ruse of looking for the marker was used to somehow switch the folded card for another will have that belief confirmed as when the card is unfolded halfway for the spectator to sign it is done so contrary to the way that it was initially folded. After the spectator signs half the lengthwise folded card the magician then inscribes the other half with the dreaded Sigillum Diaboli. But instead of some wondrously curious and mystical symbol dredged up from an ancient and forgotten Runic past the tired old 666 – the mark of the beast -- is inscribed on the other end (in black no less somehow forgetting that all contracts of this type are signed in blood red ink).

The folded card is then placed between the first and second fingers and then shown, in a wrist twisting paddle move like fashion, to be backside out on both sides.

The magician then comments that the mark of the devil will cause the card to reveal its true identity and with a quick flick of the wrist the top half of the card visibly twists itself face side out so that your now left holding a half face out, half face in card between your fingers. Because the evil in the mark is so overpowering it then, with another flick, causes the whole card to expose its face to the world. Because that's what evil does.

The card is then unfolded to show that it is a normal, albeit now creased and signed, playing card. It is then folded into quarters, but evil knowing no bounds causes the card, with another flick of the wrist, to turn face inwards so as to reveal it diabolical mark to the world. The card is unfolded once again to show that it ungimmicked and then refolded lengthwise for the big finish where once again, with a quick flick of the wrist the card is caused to turn half good side in half evil side out. In this state it is then torn in half allowing the good spectator signature side to ascend to heaven and the evil Sigillum Diaboli side to burn for all eternity in the fiery pits.

Which I'm sure comes as a great relief to the spectator and all involved.

Anyone with moderate card skills who is so inclined to add this trick to their repertoire should be able to master the necessary moves in an evening or two.

The angles are good and it resets easily as the extra folded card leaves you in a perpetual one ahead state. It is not as magical looking as Warp One and is five times the price of the original Card Warp manuscript both of which in my opinion look far more magical and mysterious than this version,

And that's it. The DVD though slickly produced offers us little else than this single effect. The so-called bonus feature is a cumbersome card transposition using a gaffed card and part of the Sigillum Diaboli methodology.

Since there are many far superior card transpositions out there, most not requiring the use nor destruction of a gaffed card the inclusion of this version is somewhat of a mystery. So unless you've got the perfect Sigillum Diaboli shaped hole in your current magic repertoire I'd look elsewhere to spend my \$25.00.

## Zinger's Thoughts – Ralph Huntzinger Blog

Each Month I will give a brief report of items of interest from Ralph Huntzinger blog. I will give a brief review of his musings and if you want to read the rest you can find it at

<http://magickhappens.com/wp/>

This month is a departure from routines and will be part of his thoughts on books to get if you find in a second hand store. Once again with his kind permission I will put some of this in his own words.

### Gems in 2nd-hand stores

**"I was cataloging and thought: "this book is good stuff, I almost wish no one reads it" and "disappointing, his earlier books were so good". The result is a short list of "Gems you find in used book stores." One author with four books, a rising star, treasure in a wire binding, and "someone made a mistake".**

**An hour or two in used outlets (Half Price Books, Goodwill, Value Village, etc.) is more entertaining than sitting in a movie house, more expensive unless I restrain myself, and the gleanings occupy my mind for months or years. Don't beat me to the magic section, there are usually few titles but often many copies. The stores near colleges and universities seem to have a couple of magic related books for some reason. I always look for "magic", "optical illusions", "theater related", "renaissance history", "science", and anything on the "\$1 clearance". \$8.00 is my limit, I'd rather see \$4.00 unless I must have it or the book is huge and reference. To keep this article focused, here is 1) a "set" – 4 books – you should buy when you find them cheap, 2) a book that will become remaindered since it was over produced, 3) a gem in shoddy clothing, and 4) an unexpected treasure."**

The books listed are

1. **Bill Tarr's "101 Easy-to-Learn Classic Magic Tricks" (1977)**
2. **Bill Tarr's "See It, Now You Don't: Lessons in Sleight of Hand" (1976)**
3. **Bill Tarr's "The Second Now You See It, Now You Don't" (1978)**
4. **Bill Tarr's "The Now You See It, Now You Don't! Notebook" (1998)**
5. **Joshua Jay's "Magic: The Complete Course (Book & DVD)" (2008)**
6. **John Cassidy's "Klutz Book of Magic" (1990)**
7. **Jim Steinmeyer's "Magic of Alan Wakeling" (1993)**

To find out why Ralph chose these books go to his weblog at.

<http://magickhappens.com/wp/>

## **Reports on the Members**

Ralph Huntzinger invited the club to attend the Renaissance fair in Richland, WA June 26-27. He will be performing with other magicians.

If you are performing let me know and I will put into the newsletter.

## What If It's Not In Tarbell? By Jeff Dial

Ever run across a reference to a move or trick, but the author doesn't tell you where to find it? Or if they do it is in some magazine that has been out of print for years? After receiving the new Tom Stone book I found an effect that I can use, but needed to go back to the source for details. Tom is very detailed and gave me the reference and luckily I had the needed books. (In this case all of the information needed was spread over three books.)

What do you do if you don't have the resource at home? Use our old friend (if something about 20 years old can be called old) the internet. I've found a number of things that have been useful in a number of ways.

### WHERE IS IT?

There is so much out there in the literature and so many people online are cataloguing it. A quick Google search may point you to the right spot. Here are some sites I am impressed with that also help.

[http://geniimagazine.com/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://geniimagazine.com/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

<http://archive.denisbehr.de/>

<http://magicref.tripod.com/magic0.htm>

[Check out the article on the egg bag in this second link]

### WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?

This can be a move, effect, or routine. Google the thing you are looking for and click on the "videos" tab. It not only takes you to YouTube, but to other videos as well. You may have to dig past the first page or so to find a good one. (I wanted to see a demonstration of John Carney's Cylinder and Tube. The only one I found was a Spanish language video that was not on YouTube.) Beware of the camera set up in the kitchen demonstrations. They can be a little rough in their presentations, but they might flash a move you need to learn.

For example I wanted to see a performance of Michael Ammar's Coins Through Silk. I only found one on the web, but it did give me a visual of the effect I needed to refresh my memory.

### WHAT IS IT CALLED?

If you only have a partial name or it has a weird spelling you can't remember give Google a shot. You might be able to get close enough that it will correct your spelling or give you a better title to look for. I was stuck looking for a rope trick called the Cords of Something or other. Searched, got the name, found out it is a silk trick not a rope trick and I had about a dozen versions in my library.

### EXPERIMENT

Try different ways of getting to your goal. Search different names. Misspell a little bit (I did this on accident once and found a good link.) Look in the "images" section. The picture might get you down the path.

### THE GREEN MONSTER

The Magic Café is another good resource if you take the time to dig a bit. It is forum for discussion on all kinds of topics magical. It does seem to be dominated by a few individuals compared to the total number of members, but no need to be intimidated. By using the Search feature you can glean some good stuff. You may have to wade a little bit, but after almost 10 years of conversation it is worth it.

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/>

### FREE BOOKS

There are plenty of ways to separate you from your money. This is not one of them. The Learned Pig Project has digitized many books that are out of copyright and are available to magicians everywhere. You will have to sign up and Marco will have you confirm your status, but there is a treasure trove of older material there. And it's free!

<http://www.thelearnedpig.com.pa/home.html>

Happy hunting.

PS I just found the reference I was looking for at The Learned Pig