



## Words from the Secretary

**Craig Colombel**

*Secretary 2013 – [accolombelzipcon.com](http://accolombelzipcon.com)*

Greetings from your secretary, Craig Colombel. 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](mailto:accolombel@zipcon.com).

## President's Message

**Jeff Dial**

*President 2013*

Nothing this month

Remember on the NWROF website there is a forum to share information with your fellow Magicians. Also the club has a Facebook page. Make use of both.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 1 Secretary's Message
- 2 February Meeting
- 2 Calendar of Events
- 3 Review by Payne
- 3 Magical Happenings
- 3 Ring of Smoke by Marty and Ben
- 4 Thoughts by Phil Reda
- 5 Ring of Fire Annual Party
- 10 Three of Clubs Convention
- 11 Magic Shops

## February 2013 MEETING

February Meeting Theme was Couch Potato Night

Evan Shuster taught how to do the trick that he performed previous meeting today performed over the phone. The trick to use two decks it used a Bombay stack. It also used a setup with four force cards. He also had handouts to go with the teach in.

Danny Dragon demonstrated psychic powers and mind altering their straight at how to put his thoughts into a person mine and can control other people's minds. He had a deck of cards with numbers on the back of them. He chose three volunteers and he had one volunteer pick a high number another volunteer pick a card and the last volunteer pick a low number. He said he was projecting the number into their minds. He then said he was projecting the number into the loan number person and had them name the card next a high number then the person who picked a card looking through the deck the card with the number that the person picked for the low had the card that he had said in the same happened with the other ones in the card that was pink had the number that he had determined.

Ralph Huntzinger performed the trick that he wrote about in the February newsletter. He brought out blue box inside the blue box was white box inside the white box with a crystal he then put the blue box inside the white box remove the white blue box and then put the white box back inside the blue box.

Mark Paulson borrowed a deck and gave to on voluntary mixed a card he dealt five cards face down and mixed the packet he didn't had a volunteer place hand on top of the cards and peak at the top card that he had the volunteer think of a number and move that number from the top to bottom. The magician tried then gave back to the volunteer and told him to repeat. After deck he had him hold the cards over to magician's hand one at a time when he was told to stop that was the card peaked at.

The rest of the evening as this was video night we saw some clips from different videos of magicians. The magicians we saw included JC Wagner, David Roth, and Slydini.

If anyone wants to add to the meeting notes send to me and I will add in the next newsletter.

My email is at the bottom of the newsletter and in the secretary's message box.

Thanks to all of the contributors this month.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2013 NWRP Meeting Themes

- March - **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?** - Magic at the dinner table or when you are out at a restaurant. **Lesson** – A thing of terrifying beauty – the Gilbreath Principle.
- April - **Backwards and Forwards** – Tricks using the Gilbreath Principle
- May – **Not Playing with a Full Deck** – packet tricks and effects that require less than a full deck of 52.
- June – **Prop-Position Me** – Show and tell night. Bring a prop with you are particularly enamored, perform or demonstrate it. **Lesson** – One ahead principle.
- July – **One is the Loneliest Number** – Tricks using one ahead Principle.
- August – **You've Got Mail** – Effects with envelopes, stamps, mail boxes, etc.
- September – **Make a Beautiful Noise** – Magic set to music.
- October – **I'm Not Dead Yet** – Themed magic around life, death, and the undead.
- November – **Why Don't You Just Read the Directions?** – Effects requiring the spectator(s) to follow your directions. **Lesson** – False calls, multiple outs, redefining what happened.
- December – **Liar, Lair, Pants on Fire** – Application of false calls, multiple outs, and redefining.

**Make sure to check the website for upcoming events and lectures.**

[HTTP://WWW.NWRINGOFFIRE.COM/INDEX.HTML](http://www.nwringoffire.com/index.html)

## Reviews by Payne

### Ultimate Fire Magic

Jeremy Pei

DVD 82 Minutes

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

\$47.00

Reviewed by Payne

I love tricks with fire. I've got fire palms, hand flashers, funkin rings, hot books and flaming wallets in my collection of magic equipment. I even manage to use them from time to time in those few venues that still allow the use of pyrotechnics. I even eat fire occasionally. I however would think seriously twice before performing a lot of the material in this DVD.

There is a nice Candle to Torch to Cane that could be safely utilized by the stage or cabaret performer. Anyone doing flash string to silk too will be interested in Mr. Pei's take on this effect which eliminates the use of body loads or awkward steals. Both of these effects are "Safe and Sane" if I am allowed to steal that moniker from the fireworks industry.

It is his work on the vanishing torch and something he calls the UFG (Ultimate Fire Gimmick) that raises my alarm. The UFG is simply a hand flasher used to ignite a small amount of flash cotton. It's not that Mr. Pei shows us some rather standard uses for a hand flasher that I have difficulty with, it's the devices construction. Instead of telling the viewer to purchase a quality professionally made device he gives detailed instructions on how to slap together a Macgyveresque contraption of your own using a binder clip, butane lighters, duct tape and a zip tie. Knowing how to cobble together such a device might come in handy to someone who's forgotten to pack or has had their handy dandy hand flasher break on them while on the road. Or if you're not sure that fire magic is for you one might assemble one of these to try it on for size. But if you are truly serious about putting fire into your act resorting to half measures such as these is a terrible habit to start developing. Not to mention that the gimmick you end up creating is less than desirable. It's clunky, hard to conceal and the finger grips way too deep. A true craftsman uses quality tools. A taped together binder clip hand flasher is not a quality tool.

Neither is his vanishing torch. But at least the cheesy hand flasher isn't nearly as potentially dangerous as the torch. Mr. Pei begins the torch segment of the DVD by showing us an array of fine, professionally produced torches -- Each a fine addition to any ones collection of fire magic. However instead of telling us to go out and obtain quality crafted piece of professionally constructed apparatus. He instead teaches us to make it ourselves out of a wooden chopstick, a sharpie pen, some duct tape a length of cotton cord and three rubber bands. Anyone paying attention has no doubt noticed that the afore mentioned list of materials is all combustible. I for one would feel quite uneasy in telling someone to construct such a device -- A device that is meant to be set on fire and then vanished up ones sleeve. A sleeve that one could suddenly find ablaze because the torch was lit too long or not properly extinguished.

Again knowing how to construct a torch of this type might come in handy to those suddenly finding them selves in need of one. Which is exactly how this torch came to be. Supposedly Shoot Ogawa devised this torch when he found he had forgotten to pack his for a cruise ship gig. An improvised torch in the hands of a trained professional accustomed to working with the prop is one thing. Introducing someone, many of whom will no doubt be trusting and highly inflammable teenagers, to this potentially dangerous branch of magic with shoddy and ill thought out props is highly questionable. Mr. Pei could easily have adapted Shoots design but used flame retardant materials instead.

Reviews by Payne

I won't even go into his fire safety segment which is full of erroneous information that could easily get you pulled out of line at the airport and into a Homeland Security holding cell. Quick note to Mr. Pei. It is illegal to transport flash paper on an airplane here in the states, as well as most of the rest of the world.

I can really only recommend this DVD if one promises only to watch Mr. Pei's handling of the various fire props. Which he appears to be quite versed in. Just don't build the devices. Unless of course you want to try out our new national health care package.

## 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](mailto:notification+khiuhkim@facebookmail.com)

**Magic Mondays** at Third Place Books in Ravenna.

April: performing is

Hugh Castell

Evan Reynolds

Mark Paulson

Remember if you want flight time at the longest running magic show in the PNW contact Fredrick at [fredrick@blarg.net](mailto:fredrick@blarg.net)

This month I am starting a new Section 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.

### Ring of Smoke Report

#### By Marty and Ben Eskenazi

On March 3, the monthly Ring of Smoke meeting took place at Shawn O'Donnell's. While Bruce was on the magical Big Island of Hawaii, Leo did a great job in leading the group in brainstorming and performing new and old magic. Leo and Logan worked on oil and water card tricks and sloppy shuffling, while Otto and Ben did a variety of card work and close up magic. Leo was very generous in demonstrating some of his favorite ways to force cards, and perform other card sleights, and Logan shared some great invisible thread and magician's wax ideas. The kids had a great time jamming for hours. All of the kids discussed both their best and worst magic purchases and different lessons learned from buying magic tricks online.

## Phil Reda contributed this month's article

So What! What's The Point?

By Phil Reda

As I have mentioned a time or two I took a hiatus from magic for a couple of years because most of the material I was doing just did not have the impact and meaning I wanted. I needed to step away and rediscover what Paul Harris has dubbed "The moment of Astonishment". I am trying to adopt the Zen philosophy of "The Beginners Mind" - this is very profound:

*In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert's there are few."*

This requires a beginner's attitude and a journey back to the basics. In my rediscovery phase (and I have a lot to learn) I am re-examining and spending more time on the presentation and psychology of magic – more to the point mentalism. So my writings are more of a note to self and not meant to sound like a rant. I am guilty of what I write about. If there is something useful for you then I hope you will explore these areas further.

As I re-read some of the classics a light is beginning to shine. In the first chapter of the seminal book "Magic and Showmanship" Henning Nelms hit the nail on the head - "No matter how astonishing a trick may be, it suffers from one major fault – it has no point". He goes on further to give this excellent example – I am going to paraphrase to keep this short. "Suppose I walked up to you and waved my hand and told you to reach in your pocket. There you find a ham sandwich – that would be pretty amazing but then you would probably think to yourself so what? What's the point?" And this is where most tricks fail. For example take the classic trick Bill – in – Lemon – this is an amazing trick – but what is the point? Why -if I could work miracles make a dollar disappear and have it wind up in a Lemon? Also take a look at the classic Chinese Linking rings. After the first couple of links so what! I have seen routines go on and on making all kinds of patterns with the rings – what's the point? I am not knocking these great effects and they do have their place. Mr Nelms continues the example. "Now let suppose I walk up to you and you say I am really hungry and I wave my hand at you and tell you to reach into your pocket – and now you pull out a ham sandwich" Same trick but now it has a point – it has meaning.

Can we add meaning to the Bill-in – Lemon? Maybe through the use of metaphors a meaning can be found – a couple of plot examples that quickly come to mind:

1. Seed money – instead of the bill vanishing it changes into a handful of seeds and the bill is in the lemon or apple. Maybe you have a green thumb? People who want to start a business need seed money.
2. A darker presentation could be built around the ancient art of the Sin Eater and how the root of all evil is money. A sin eater would eat the sins of a person for money -but what does he do with all those sins he has eaten – he transfers them to an un-eatable fruit such as a lemon – so beware if you cut open a lemon and find money!

What does this trick bring to mind for you?

The point of all this is a trick without meaning is nothing more than a puzzle and presents a challenge to the audience and unfortunately most people do not like puzzles.

So let's try a couple of "Beginners Mind" exercises. I am going to provide a couple of links for demos at my favorite magic web site Penguin Magic. These are not endorsements or pans. Please resist the urge to buy – usually caused by the desire to know how a trick is done. This is only an exercise in developing a premise or plot. After watching the demo say to yourself -So What! What's the point? Now make a list of ideas for a premise which leads to a plot. I wrote about this briefly in a previous article. Instead of learning or purchasing an effect then trying to script something try to figure a premise before hand. I will give an answer to the first demo then you are on your own.

Continue next page:

Example: This is a new effect from Aron Fisher who is by far one of the most creative card magicians and this is real eye candy – but we need to move beyond the initial impulse of a magician and want to know the secret – what meaning does it have for an audience.

Watch the following Demo: <http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/2647>

Now say out loud: So What! What's the point? What meaning could I impart?

Here are a couple premise ideas that popped into my head after watching the demo:

1. My first thought is to show your audience how fallible short term memory is. This is well known by police investigating witnesses. No two people observing an event will have the same recollection of the event.

2. Maybe the kings could represent those geeky kids you knew in high school that were different from the rest – shunned by the group. And now they own software companies and really stand out from the rest of the pack.

As you watch the following do they remind you of something in your life? Is there an emotional hook that could be attached? A metaphor perhaps? Maybe there is nothing and you will see it for the puzzle it truly is and not worth performing. These were randomly picked – they are currently on the Hot Seller List.

A. <http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/2685>

B. <http://www.penguinmagic.com/act/4fa40c2b822d9>

C. <http://www.penguinmagic.com/p/3201>

I must make this caveat – in walk around party situations you cant get away with a long story plot – but you can still have meaning.

If you would like to learn more about the “Beginners Mind” go to the following link.

<http://zenhabits.net/how-to-live-life-to-the-max-with-beginners-mind/>

## The Ring of Fire Annual Party

Once again the party was held Shaun O'Donnell restaurant and we had a pasta meal that was delicious. Entertainment was by Louie Fox and Nate Jesser. Both who put on a very good show. Afterwards we had the awards.

The Brisbane award was given to Jim Rogers, the Pomeroy award for creativity was given to Jim Earnshaw and a magician of the year for excellence magic was given to Payne.

Below are some pictures





# Family Entertainers Workshop

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FEW Sponsor: [KenoshaMagic.com](http://KenoshaMagic.com)

## Saturday April 27, 2013

7:30 - 9:00	Registration: Pick Up Notebook & Magic Store Open 7:30 AM-10 PM	
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome and Introductions	
9:00 - 10:00	Entertaining Pre-Schoolers .....	Dave Risley
10:30 - 11:30	Performing for Birthday Parties .....	DJ Ehlert
11:30 - 12:30	Family Fun Shows .....	Steve Kissell
12:30 - 2:00	Lunch with a new friend	
2:00 - 3:00	Educational Table Sessions: Hands On .....	STEVE / DAVE / DJ
3:00 - 4:00	Twisting for Cash .....	DJ Ehlert
4:00 - 5:00	Creating Theme Shows .....	Dave Risley
5:00 - 6:00	Q & A: Networking	
6:00 - 8:00	Dinner on Your Own	
8:00 - 9:00	Hilarious Staff Show	
9:00 - 10:00	Magician Feud .....	Mike Norden and Gord Boyes

## Sunday April 28, 2013

7:30 - 9:00	Registration & Magic Store Open 7:30 AM-9:00 PM	
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome and Introductions	
9:00 - 10:00	Performing for Young Children .....	Dave Risley
10:30 - 11:30	50 Performance Tips for Entertainers .....	Steve Kissell
11:30 - 12:30	Capturing the Corporate Market .....	DJ Ehlert
12:30 - 2:00	Lunch on your own with an old friend	
2:00 - 3:00	Educational Table Sessions: Hands On .....	STEVE / DAVE / DJ
3:00 - 4:00	Storytelling With Puppets .....	Dave Risley
4:30 - 5:30	Student Performance & Critique .....	Participants
5:00 - 6:00	Q & A: Networking	
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner on Your Own	
7:00 - 8:00	America's Funniest Magician Contest with Trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd You must be registered for both days to compete.	

[www.FamilyEntertainersWorkshop.com](http://www.FamilyEntertainersWorkshop.com) • 757-423-3867

### **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

910 NE Minnehaha St. Ste 1

Vancouver, WA 98665

1-888-360-6244

Brian Cook's

[WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM](http://WWW.MAGICCRAFTER.COM)

### **Information on the Weekend of Magic, 3 of Clubs convention.**

This will be held in Vancouver BC on November 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2013

From Mike Norden IBM Ring #92 Vancouver Magic Club and Host of the Convention.

The ALUMNI price is for anyone who has attended a PAST 3 of clubs, Weekend of Magic, 3 of Clubs convention. The price is now set till September. The first 75 people who register will receive a GIFT BAG of EXCLUSIVE magic stuff worth over \$75 – I am serious! We have 68 people registered already so register now!

See the NW Ring of Fire Website for the registration form or go to [www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com) to register. Or for more information contact Mike Norden at 604-916-9879.



