

The Northwest Ring of Fire

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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 club members.

Well we're nearly half way through the year and I've yet to completely destroy the club so I must be doing something right. Not much to report this month. Plans are going forward for the Tri-Cities Weekend of Magic. I'm going to talk to Shawn about renaming it as I've already talked to a handful of people who think it's in Eastern Washington instead of up north. I don't think they have a Tri-Cities area in British Columbia so they may not be aware of the potential confusion.

Anyway for those that still maybe unaware the Tri-City (Vancouver, Seattle, Victoria) magic convention is starting up again. Vancouver has it this year and Seattle in 2011. Thus since we are the next city in line we are responsible for putting on the Friday Night Show. I've got the line up all booked and it promises to be a good show. I hear that that are limiting attendance to 100 people so if you haven't made you're reservations yet I suggest you do so ASAP.

The next meeting is on the 10th and I will be doing a talk on Nest of Boxes and be showing some of the different sets in my collection. If you have a set or presentation you'd like to share with the club please feel free to bring it along. The more the merrier.

Tony Comito's "That's Impossible" show at Egan's Jam House in Ballard is picking up steam. The last show with Brian Cook and Louie Foxx broke all the previous attendance records and they had to add a second show. The next performance is on Tuesday July 13th and promises to be another outstanding show. Magic Monday too is still an ongoing concern. It's held the second Monday of the Month at Third Place Books in Ravenna and is always a fun show. Feel free to drop on in to either performance and help support magic in the Seattle area.

See you Thursday

April 2010 Meeting:

Meetings will open with the business portion. After business we will 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 last lecture by David Williamson was a great success as fifty-five people showed up. 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. Anyone who knew him and wish to have more written about him send me, your secretary, your thoughts and they will be published.

The Vancouver "Day of Magic" will be replaced with the "Tri-City Convention". This will be a revival of a convention that will be rotated each year between the magic clubs of the cities of Vancouver, BC, Victoria, BC and Seattle, WA. The convention will be held at the Best Western Sands Hotel, 1755 Davie St, Vancouver, BC Canada. The dates will be, starting Friday November 5th through Sunday November 7th. You can register for the convention at <http://www.ibmring92.com/weekend.html>. Register early as there will only be space for 100 people.

There was a report on Kramien's Jamboree. The club had 3 people in the contests and came away with 4 Trophies. Logan Earle and Matthew Wells (who took second in Stage and won the Showmanship Award). Our president Master Payne took first Place in Close Up and the Elgin Fuller Comedy Award. Member Streling Dietz was a performer in the main Show.

There will be a lecture on June 12th at 2pm, at Shawn O'Donnell's Restaurant 122 128th St. SE, Everett, WA. The guest will be Keith Fields.

Performances: Louie Fox presented a MC routine he is working on. The first half he had people in the audience take out their cellphones and think of a number then he gave them a suite to match it with, then text the number and suite to themselves and put the phone on silence then put the phone away for later.

The interlude was Jeff Dial performing a rope routine he is working on, in which the rope is cut and restored, tied in a circle, cut again with fingers, the knot removed, rope tied again then restored to original condition.

Louie Fox then presented the second half of his MC routine. Had a spectator throw a deck of cards on the floor, so some were face up some face down. He had the audience take out their cell phones and look at the number and suite they had texted themselves. Louie then called out the cards that were face up and everyone's texted message matched the cards on the floor. Louie is working on this routine as a gentle way to get people to turn off their cell phones during shows.

Great thinking Louie.

Payne showed a prop and routine for his library pirate show. He brought out a pirate chest and removed two ropes which he tied together in the middle with a belaying pin. He then proceeded to thread onto the ropes different pirate booty. He placed the ropes into the pirate chest, with the ends showing and proceeded to remove the items from the ropes without moving the ends.

Bruce Meyers brought his dog to the meeting and the dog performed tricks for the members. The dog's name is Abby for Abracadabra.

Sandy performed a six bill repeat with a change for the end, ending with nine bills at the end.

Product Demonstration: Payne demonstrated for the members Knights' Baby Gag Deluxe. This was the old baby gag with some extra twists to it. This version added some additions to the gag to make it long running and a little more complex.

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 or two per newsletter issue.

Newspaper Magic (Revised Edition)

By Gene Anderson and Frances Marshall

\$24.95

Magic Inc.

<http://magicinc.net>

Softbound 8 1/2" X 11" 170 pages

ISBN: 978-0-9729263-3-1

Reviewed by Payne

I was eager to read this new revised edition of *Newspaper Magic*. Much of the content of the original book had been gathered from a wide variety of magic publications spanning several decades and included routines from many celebrated performers such as U. F. Grant, Billy McComb and Ed Marlo. Since it had been forty years since *Newspaper Magic's* initial release I was expecting this new "revised" edition to include many of the new tricks and methods that have had been made in this genre of magic since 1968.

Sadly, this is not the case. The word revised in this instance simply means that the publisher has added a smattering of black and white photographs to the book. These new pictures appear primarily in the two chapters on Chapeaugraphy and in the instructions for the famous Anderson Paper Tear. The remainder of the text unfortunately has remained unchanged.

This is problematic for several reasons. The first being that, after forty plus years, much of the material presented in this book has become incredibly outdated. Nearly twenty pages are devoted to "Paper Tales". These are jejune story routines which are punctuated by the performer cutting out strings of paper dolls to illustrate the tale. With a lot of reworking these presentations might play for the pre-school or kindergarten set. However with the level of sophistication prevalent in your average child today I fear this archaic specialty act is best left to go the way of those other Vaudevillian crafts of Chalk Talks, Sand Painting and Rag Art.

But it isn't these once quaint routines that I find troublesome. It is the retention of material that no longer reflects the sensibilities of our modern and diverse society.

For some reason the publishers decided to leave in several routines that are sure to offend today's more culturally diverse audiences. One of the "Paper Tales" is about Davy Crocket and calls his Native American friends . . . well let's just say they use the same word as a controversially named Washington DC football team. To add insult to injury they are saddled with the unfortunate titles of Big Chief Sitting Ha-Ha and Big Chief Standing Ho-Ho. Another routine takes place in "Darkest Africa" while another has the performer portray a Chinese magician drowsily smoking an opium pipe.

One effect is stated to play better if a Chinese newspaper is employed. The reader is told if such a newspaper is unavailable in their town then they should ask their local laundryman where to obtain one.

While references of this type, while not being excusable, are at least partially understandable in books published before the Civil and Equal Rights era. But to continue to propagate these outmoded routines containing such offensive stereotypes without apology or explanation is indefensible. Magic already has a difficult enough time being accepted as anything other than a low art without having to contend with a new batch of doctrinaire performers who feel their jingoist behavior is validated by the continued publication of such material.

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 we will cover his thoughts on developing a routine using egg cups, as made famous by Germain. I will let you give you a feeling on what he is thinking in his own words.



Found “egg cups” which would work well in routine and have lots of yellow silk handkerchiefs from Jerry Andrus’ estate. While I’m figuring out moves and blocking I also talk to myself, therefore germinating the construction of a storyline plus suggesting language or dialog. This routine is following a path from required moves to storyline to added action. Often I start with language then storyline and then moves or effects that fit emerging story. Renfaire venue will be first used so Zinger will be the character to whom magic happens or does something which is magical. I actually want to feature this routine in Victorian venue since Germain is “so Victorian”. Our routines rarely have someone doing magic, instead magic just happens as they procede; making this an experiment might accomplish that or we’ll just break our rule. Routine requires two interactions with audience member(s). Climax is finding handkerchief in selected egg.

1. Introduce six eggs (why six?),
2. Introduce three handkerchiefs (select one, eliminate two — why three?),
3. Prove eggs are real by breaking any one of them (why only one?),
4. (Handle mess from breaking egg — introduce container for eggshell and contents).
5. Choose handkerchief,
6. Vanish handkerchief.
7. Select one egg (why?),
8. Find vanished handkerchief in selected egg.
9. (What do with remaining eggs and handkerchiefs?)

He takes you through his thoughts on developing the patter and routine in his blog. One interesting concept; is to at first put everything into your script, then go back and remove the extra. Better than to short then trying to add

To find out more on developing a theme base routine with patter go to his blog.

Reports on the Members

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