

The Northwest Ring of Fire

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Words from the Secretary

Craig Colombel

November 2014 – accolombel@zipcon.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.

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Elections

We are looking for people to hold office in the club. We need a second Vice President and a Treasurer. Come to the meeting and volunteer or contact your secretary at accolombel@zipcon.com.

This is your chance to take the club to new heights and to get the activities you want done.

Remember participation in the club makes it stronger.

Also we are looking for themes for the monthly meetings. Send in what kind of meetings you will like to have. Send your suggestions to me at accolombel@zipcon.com

October 2014 MEETING

Creepshow Magic – Bring in your magic that’s creepy, spooky, ghoulish, etc.

The meeting started with a discussion about the themes for next year and if we would put on a show. Devin Graupmann informed the group that he got his buskers licenses for performing at the Pike’s Place Market. Ralph Huntzinger did a teach-in of his Renaissance theme coins across routine. This was based on a routine by Harry Lorraine. Included in the teach-in was his thoughts about how magicians are prevented from good magic by being hung up on the mechanics of the trick and not the motions and the audience.

Brian Melicher performed a psychological experiment. He dealt cards down on a table one at a time, face up and had the spectator say stop. Brian then pulled out a paper with a prediction and the card stopped on and the prediction matched.

Jeff Dial told the story about the battle at Bosworth fields. This battle brought about the end of the War of the Roses. He told about one of the events of the war, the tale of the two princes in the Tower of London. He then showed a key he said was from the door of the princes’ room. The key was connected to the princes and at times try to release them. As he finished the key rotated on its own in his hand.

Payne, showed a couple of new products; one was a deck of cards with one way backs and the other was a roughing stick to quickly make rough cards sold by Vanishing Inc. He then had a volunteer come up and gave them a mummy’s hand and told them as long as they held the hand they would have good luck and would not lose at cards. Payne had another volunteer come up and that person choose the cards for the first to make a poker hand. The magician had a full house and the first volunteer with the mummy’s hand had a Royal flush. Payne retrieved the hand and inside was a parchment with a statement that predicted that the magician and the first volunteer will get.

We are still looking for someone for treasurer for the club.

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 November 2 Ring of Smoke meeting was well attended and was held at the Marysville library. JR and Ralph hosted the meeting and discussed with the youth how to take notes when reading magic books, and how to organize and make a list of their own tricks as well as tricks that they wanted to learn. Each of the kids then had an opportunity to perform and jam together. Haley and Hannah did a cool mentalism routine, while Otto and Theo worked on coin magic. John, Benjamin, Mac, Matt, Kai, Cameron, Devin and the others demonstrated card magic including various sleights and effects. A great time was had by all!

Benjamin and Madeleine Eskenazi

For those at the meeting Linae took Photos and posted them on her Facebook page.

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

Thanks Linae

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**2014 NWRP Meeting Themes**

November 13 – Look who’s coming to Dinner! – Perform magic sitting down at the Dinner table.

December 11 – “Tell me a story” night – Spin a yarn to go along with your magic.

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)

Out of Pocket

Bob Escher

DVD

An impromptu feat with your pocket

Roger Lovins Magic

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

Price \$20.00

Reviewed by Payne

This is a clever and fun little trick in which you can animate an outturned pocket of your trousers. The performance possibilities are multitude. From a demonstration of invisible thread (as is illustrated in the DVD demo) to a tantalizing tale of haunted trousers (I've a Glorpy in my pocket). I myself might play with using this as a finish to a coin routine that ended with the old coin through pant trick. Using the invisible thread ploy to sew up the invisible hole left by the coins penetration.

The trick is easy and more or less self working. You will have to gimmick a set of trousers. But the necessary alterations are neither damaging nor permanent and the gimmick is easily moveable from one pair of pants to another. The necessary articles required to rig up your pants are not included with the DVD. But they are easily and cheaply obtainable from your local hardware or variety store for three or four dollars. There are no bad angles and the trick is instantly reset by simply pushing your pocket back in. The gimmick is comfortable and can easily be worn throughout the day with little hindrance to regular day to day activities. You might not want to play tennis or golf with it on or keep anything of value in the gimmicked pocket. But other than that you should be able to go about your business while wearing it.

The DVD itself is well shot. But it has no chapters. So if you want to watch a section of it again you'll have to rewind or fast forward just like in the old VHS days. This isn't too much of a hindrance though as the DVD is only nine minutes long. I think it could have used a little more in the explanation section as your sort of left with a "That's it?" feeling after it's done. But it gives you all the info you really need as well as a couple of scenes of it being used in action. But a tips and suggestion section might have been nice to round out the production. Especially since it took me some fiddling to get the thing to work for me the way it worked on the DVD. A section on difficulties one might encounter with different types of trousers and their wide range of pockets would have been a nice addition.

But then they guy presenting it on the tape isn't the guy who created the effect so he might never have encountered these problems himself. Mr. Lovins DVD has Bob Escher teaching us a trick he's been doing ever since he saw the creator Charlie Cheatham perform it at a party three years ago. Mr. Escher thanks Mr. Cheatham for giving him permission to tip his effect on a DVD and they even attribute the original TOPS magazine from 1955 in which Mr. Cheatham's effect first appeared.

There's just a little too much information left off of the recording and you're left with the feeling that "I'm reinventing the wheel here" as you try to work out the bugs for yourself.

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

910 NE Minnehaha St. Ste 1
Vancouver, WA 98665
1-888-360-6244

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

Tim Flynn hosts a live magic show at Egan's Ballard Jam House, featuring a variety of local performers. Reservations are \$10. It is best to book early by calling Egan's Ballard Jam House as it is an intimate setting and seating is limited to about 46. Doors open at 6pm and dinner at Egan's is excellent. [Click here for Egan's current Performance Calendar](#) Tim Flynn is looking for performers, If interested contact Tim at 206-290-7767 or on Facebook at notification+khiuhkim@facebookmail.com

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.

NOVEMBER 10

Mark Paulson

Fred Turner

Jeff Dial

Louie Foxx

Master Payne

If you wish to perform contact Mark at:

mark2061@yahoo.com or on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/thirdplacebooksmagicmonday?fref=ts>

Starting at the Finish by Ralph Huntzinger

An easy way to look at building effects and an act (several effects) is to break it into beginning, middle, and end; that's more of a taxonomy approach since it is used to classify something after it is known, but it works as a start. We introduce characters and situations in the beginning; create interest by action, complexity and conflict in the middle; and solve the challenge with a climax and a denouncement in the ending. Basically everything builds interest to be peaked in the end. There are introduction, opening, or beginning effects; action, exposition, and building effects of increasing interest or difficulty in the middle, and definite climatic ending effects. Roy Benson suggests adding a fourth part which is something for the audience to remember that it is you performing instead of just "the effect". Jeff McBride suggests "welcoming and acknowledging the audience" as a start. I suggest using the first 90 seconds or so to let the audience know what to expect, who you are, and to show you are qualified equal to their invested interest and time.

But let's look at a short act from an additional viewpoint. If you build to a climax, you need to foreshadow that effect. Mario Morris calls it "overlapping" or introducing in the middle of a preceding effect that you will be doing something later; getting the audience prepared and interested in what comes next after this present wonder.

[My casual "impromptu" dinner table act](#) climaxes with *Salt Shaker Thru Table* so let's look at it "starting at the finish". I know I'll need a salt shaker (with little of no emphasis on it), a cloth or napkin, a coin, obviously a table top (which has an accessible underside), focus on the small area of the covered salt shaker, and a developed rhythm of doing effects that I break at the climax (vanish of salt shaker). The building blocks of the act slowly reveal themselves: introduce a coin and do something with it (to suggest it or coins are special), introduce a cloth or napkin and do something with it (pass something thru it) so "passing thru" is introduced, setup a rhythm and attitude about performing ("pay attention because what happens is not what you expect"), building my personality and style by being constant with how I present effects, and structuring effects so they increase interest.

I introduce "coin" at the very beginning by concentrating on the smallest, youngest, or closest person. I do a typical "Magic Uncle" stunt of pulling *Coin From Ear* or *Attention (Penny to Dime)* because those are intimate, personal, hard for the whole group to see, and because the individual's reaction to the appearance focuses the group's attention on them, me, and that we're doing something interesting. Telling the person to keep the coin, I bring out the four dollars for *Hole In Hand (Coins Across)* and say "we'll use bigger coins later".

Having some interest I then do my cut and restored rope, yarn, or string routine, *Shepard's Knots*, because it starts with a story of being around a table with family, creating the effect, and describes its place at the beginning of my formal shows. The story in *Shepard's Knots* is simple and clear, easy to follow, and everything is done openly and closeup so the effect establishes my competence and style.

I then do two card tricks, [Chinese Laundry Trick](#) and [They Know Their Names](#), because card tricks are assumed and these two build interest by what happens instead of my showing off skill.

Introduce the napkin by doing *Well or Hole in the Ground (Knife thru Napkin)* and then showing coin by using one in *Coin Thru Napkin*.

Big show of skill with all four coins in *Hole In The Hand*.

And ending with *Salt Shaker Thru Table*. (There needs to be a better title for that effect since it is Coin Thru Table with salt shaker only used to sprinkle salt and apply pressure.)

Everything has been building interest and there really is nothing to top the vanishing salt shaker. All the pieces of the ending effect have been introduced so it is setup as a simple experiment instead of a trick.

I do finish with teaching how *The French Drop* is done but that's only so they take away a feeling that they could do what I did if they practiced and had my magical abilities.

Figuring out the closing or climax effect and then working backwards to introduce the props is an effective way to structure a short act.

"Strange Secrets - Volume One"

By Phil Reda

It has been awhile since I have placed pen to paper. This installment is a review of a set of PDF downloads available from Abbots Magic Company. I have a very special place in my heart for Abbots. Located in the south west corner of Michigan about 3 hours from where I grew up in Detroit. I remember getting my first Abbot's catalog - it was a huge publication rivaling Tannan's - I would spend hours poring over the pages. My long time close friend (and Magic buddy) and I would drive down to Abbot's for the annual Magic Get Together - there we got a chance to see Karl Fox, Duke Stern, Neal Foster and other luminaries perform. These were exciting times as magicians from all over converged in this small farming community.

But like all things if you rest on your laurels you lose your edge and will no longer be top dog -the same happened to Abbot's. They never changed with the times and they lost their way. It was looking pretty grim until a couple of years ago new blood was injected and the sick patent is starting a comeback. Which brings me to this review.

Abbot's has exclusive rights for some hard to find and unusual publications. In particular there is a 3 volume set entitled "Strange Secrets" and strange they are. Each volume consists of a collection of old Abbot publications. The bound edition of all three sells for \$25. The good news is the PDF download for each volume is \$4 – this is a steal. Trick Shop.com has a couple of the publication contained in these volumes and they are asking \$6.95 each. The material contained is very eclectic and will not be found anywhere else. Also some material probably has not seen the light of day since Vaudeville and would be completely new today's audiences.

Let's step inside and take a look at this odd and wonderful collection. The first thing you will notice is the awful layout. The decision was made to keep the layout as per the original. Most of the pages are copied at a slight angle and the text is in all caps - this does make for a cumbersome read. But the material is fascinating and well worth the effort. I am currently reading volume one but have purchased all three downloads.

Volume One is approximately 85 pages and consists of 7 Manuscripts.

1. " Thrilling Magic" - This covers sword swallowing, fire eating, walking thru fire, eating broken glass and other geek magic. Not my thing but could make for interesting back story material. Also in this manuscript there are instructions on building a flash box - crude by today's standards, fire proofing a handkerchief and other unusual things.
2. " Super Sensitive Finger Tips" - Written by Howard Albright - this is his first book. Contained is a whole act demonstrating the ability to read cards, dates on coins and bills as well as colors using your fingertips. Not only methods are discussed in detail but complete presentations as well as the important thinking behind each effect. Each effect logically builds to the next. This is a great manuscript and if you stopped here you have received your money worth. The very first effect performed with cards is an old trick that has been written up many times in beginners books but was never really given a great handling - usually covered in a couple of paragraphs. Mr Albright takes a couple of pages and works it into a great opener with spectator involvement and sets you up for the next experiment. I have become a big fan of his writing.
3. " Jap Mirako Act" - This is really bizarre - I am not really sure I can explain this. This is a complete act built around the premise that you have the ability to do more than one thing at a time - as a matter of fact you build up to a point where you are doing 6 things at the same time- talk about multi-tasking. For example two names are given - you write out the first name as usual. The second name you write out upside down and backwards. Then you combine the name so each letter of the names alternates - creating one long series of letters. The only thing every other letter is upside down and backwards. It continues to get even more bizarre from there. This can be done on stage or Closeup and I can see someone with the right presentation making a name for themselves using just this act. As I mentioned earlier this has probably not been seen since Vaudeville and would play well today with today's audiences and multitasking. This will take some work but the manuscript lays out step by step learning exercises. What's old is new!
4. "Mind Reading For Two People" - As the title suggest this is a manuscript on codes. Interesting but again not my thing.

Continue on next page

5. " Super Memory Plus" -Written by Gerald Kosky. This is a short manuscript detailing a super number memory stunt utilizing a Mnemonic system. Again not my thing but could play well in the right hands. Could fit in with Jap Mirako Act mentioned a above. As a matter of fact they would make a food combination of feats since you are demonstrating powers of the mind. There are better memory stunts - but this one could be updated to pin numbers instead of serial numbers.

6. "Forbidden Wisdom"- This is a classic written by Howard Albright. TrickShop.com sells this for \$ 6.95 and at that price it is a bargain - In this volume you are getting it as well as 6 other publications for \$4.00. This is a gem! If you are interested in learning simplified fortune telling methods look no further. Cards, palm reading, dice etc. The highlight for me is Albright's simplified card reading system. Albright goes into great detail of method and presentation. Even if you do not use some of the material he will get your creative juices flowing. This one publication is worth the price tag.

7. Finally " Thoughts Have Wings-Part One" - Written by Eddie Clever. (Part two is carried over into Strange Secret's Volume Two). Part One is a reprint of Mr Clever's essays he wrote in the Sphinx's. Each essay is a lesson on how to present mentalism. This wonderful collection is a must red for those interested in this branch of magic. Part Two will contain mentalism effect's. This is another long forgotten gem! Probably my favorite of the 7 reviewed.

Well this is getting really long so next month I will review the Remaining Volumes of Strange Secret's. This series will probably not be everyone's cup of tea but for me there is a wealth of material here. As stated above due to the layout and the choice to use all capital letters for the text it is a cumbersome read.

Please visit the following links:

1. Abbot's Home page: <http://www.abbottmagic.com/>
2. Strange Secret's Vol.1: <http://www.abbottmagic.com/Instant-Download-Strange-Secrets-Volume-1-ABBIDss1.htm>

Until next time

Phil Reda

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