



### Your 2014 Officers

- Jason Michaels,  
President
- Dr. Gary Flegal,  
Vice President
- Stephen Bargatze,  
Sergeant at Arms
- Kevin King,  
Treasurer
- Jason Moseley,  
Secretary
- Jeff Bjorklund,  
Webmaster

### Individual Highlights:

Bargatze	2
Upcoming	3
From the East	4
Bamboozler	5
Down in the Boro	6
Berger	7

## Frank Deville – From the Street to the NMC!



**Jason:** How did you get started in magic and how long have you been doing magic?

**Frank:** I've always been fascinated with miracles and the impossible. When I was 15 or 16 I walked into a magic shop in a mall. I look around and realized that I wasn't a magician and I walked right out. When I got home I realized that the magic shop was in a mall and it was for the public to come in and buy their stuff. The next time I was there I went in and the guy behind the counter started showing me all this cool stuff like two card monte, the dental dam, and more. I bought a bunch of stuff and started learning it.

**Jason:** How long have you been involved with magic clubs?

**Frank:** I never went to a magic club meeting until maybe eight years ago. I grew up by myself doing magic. I was out on the street probably being pretty bad, but I loved it. I had to learn by experience and from the couple of guys like Alain Nu and Brian Curry that I knew.

**Jason:** Do you have a favorite trick?

**Frank:** I can tell you what trick I hate. I hate the bill in orange and that's probably my best trick. I've spent twenty years working on it, but there are a million people doing bill in orange. Here's why I hate it, the last twenty years could have been put into doing a trick that

nobody else is doing.

I wonder what it would be like if I had put that time into something unique. In fact, when I give people advice about street performing the only thing I tell them is...don't do bill in orange. If you do something for twenty years you are going to get really good at it and I think you should get good at something that no one else is doing.

**Jason:** You, obviously, love magic and are a bit of a trick monkey. Tell us about that.

**Frank:** I don't think I can stop myself. At this point it's a compulsion. If being a magician will make me homeless, I don't think I can save myself from it. I love the fact that I can support myself by doing magic. That is also what drives me to learning new tricks. New ideas set me on fire and I don't know how to stop it. And I think that's where passion comes from.

**Jason:** How did you develop your style?

**Frank:** I love music. Whenever I listen to music I love guys like Jack White and Mick Jagger. None of those guys have great singing voices, but they are all great singers. Part of that is commitment and part of that is because they are being themselves. It almost seems that it's about letting go. It's about not letting things hold you back.

So I'm watching all these magicians who play different characters or have specific contrived scripts that feel pretentious...I can't relate. It doesn't feel genuine. It may be about consistency. It may be that going to one place or another just doesn't feel real to me. It's about finding your

voice. Watching people go in and out of character just drives me nuts.

You don't have Mick Jagger stopping and sounding like somebody else. He is Mick Jagger 100% of the time. That is the thing that is so frustrating. I haven't found my voice yet. I think you achieve it by doing something without trying. Part of the artistic journey is doing something badly and probably doing something badly for a long time. You have to do something for a long time to figure out how to make it brilliant. You just have to keep doing it until you figure it out. One of the wonderful things about magic as an art form is that it's never done. I may stop working on it, but it's never finished.

**Jason:** Do you have anything special that you've been working on?

**Frank:** You've seen me do my milk routine and it's awful. I am passionate about it, but when I go back and look at it I don't like it. I'm failing to entertain because I am lecturing my audience. Sometimes passion can sell a trick, but it isn't working for this one yet. So I am up there on stage and I do the milk routine and I don't feel connected to the audience. When I go into my next routine I decide to abandon it because I'm not sure if I still have my audience or if I've lost them. When I look back at the show I feel like I failed. The show went great, but my goal of doing a show based on my libertarian views is extremely difficult to figure out.

I really want to make the world a better place doing what I love to do and that's magic. It may sound corny, but it's true.

## Bargatze's Musings – Winter Carnival of Magic



*“Learn new magic tricks that no one from our club has ever seen.”*

Winter Carnival is over.

It sounds like something sad, but really it was something good.

I always have a hard time when I am working a convention. First, I have many friends that I would like to spend time with, but when I am working I am just too busy. My hope is that we can just hang out at a club meeting or after I finish working.

The one thing that is good about a magic convention is the people you meet and the people who become your friends. The strange thing is that several of those friends I only see at the convention.

That's part of what makes the Winter Carnival so special. I am writing to say that if I seemed busy or that I might have ignored you, please overlook this at a convention. It happens to me and to other members of our club, too. We all get to spend time together here in Nashville and we all have things to do at the convention.

Several days I was getting prepared for the show that I had coming up. I worked both days and nights for the first two days of the convention. I'm telling you this, because I had someone

tell me they felt left out. Unfortunately, it just doesn't always work out. The time the guy said this to me, I was going to have a late breakfast with Williamson and it was going to be the first time we talked about our show. I just hope we can all understand. Add the fact that we are often trying to be hired for some other work while we are there and that just complicates the time left for visiting.

I have a good friend, Jim, that I did not get to spend any time with and it was my loss. Jim is very old and is a good friend and I never spend time with him that I don't feel better afterwards. So sorry, Jim.

I wanted to write this because if that happened to you with anybody at a convention just let it go. It's a different atmosphere. Besides, I would hope that we all have guys that we see only at conventions.

My advice is to make new friends and find out what they are doing at their clubs. Learn new magic tricks from them that no one from our club has ever seen.

The best way to make new friends is to get in

the contest and find people who like what you do and do similar magic.

Now, as a review of the convention I thought there was some great magic. Not only that, but the lectures were plentiful and full of good information.

I only got to attend Williamson's, Gertner's, Wilson's, and Hayden's lectures. I took something from each one to help me with effects that I do.

I missed the two early lectures. In fact, I'm not sure why you would put a lecture at 8:30 in the morning. I guess the same guy that would put the close-up contest at 8:30 am would put a lecture then, too. But I heard the contest was great and that Kayla won. She was picked by many to be the one who was supposed to win. Good for her! As far as the early lecture goes, well...I heard from a few people that it was good that I got the extra rest I needed.

It would be good to hear from some of you on what your thoughts were on the convention, especially from the first timers.

## Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

**Nashville Magic Club**, April Meeting – April 24th, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Andrew Price Methodist Church at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

You won't want to miss Mike Berger In Concert and Jason Moseley will lecture on Restaurant Magic and Trade Shows.

**Razzle Dazzle Magic Show XXIII** – May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Center for the Arts in Murfreesboro, TN. Our sister club, Ring 252 produces this show and it is always a lot of fun. Our very own Tom Gibson will be the Master of Ceremonies and from what I hear there will be a few great surprises. Tickets are available at <http://boroarts.org/tickets>



Joshua Jay's lecture was a hit!



## April's Meeting Theme is...April Showers

April Showers bring May Flowers, and Mayflowers bring Pilgrims. All the spring rain makes this a great month for liquid magic. Shower us (not literally) with your best effect that uses some kind of fluid.

## Help Us Reach More Magic Enthusiasts

If you are receiving this newsletter, you qualify as a magic enthusiast. I know I certainly am.

I want this newsletter to get out to as many people who enjoy the art and craft of magic as possible.

We need your help! Make sure we have your correct email address, mailing address, etc. Right now, the newsletter is strictly electronic, but who knows, maybe one day we'll even send out a hard copy newsletter as well.

You can also help the cause by forwarding these newsletters to anyone you know that might be interested in magic. That's right, anyone!

We all have to get started somehow. It's my hope that these little newsletters may help spark the interest, then fan the flame of this great art that we enjoy sharing with each other.

Don't hesitate! Forward this newsletter to some of your friends, then make

sure you invite them out to the next club meeting.

We want to make as many new friends as possible and spread the fun!

-JM

---

### Classified Ads Tricks for Sale

Hospitality Trick (as performed by Lance Burton)

Rabbit Ringer Deluxe

Blades Through Arm

Twisting Arm Illusion

Abbott's Sword Basket

Kaboom Box

Flying Carpet Illusion

For more information about these magic tricks for sale, contact Wayne Clemons at [magicwayne40@gmail.com](mailto:magicwayne40@gmail.com).

## From the East by Tom Vorjohan



It was the Beatles who wrote and performed the song “Come Together” – what some think was just drug-induced babble, the song is about the Beatles’ feelings towards each other. George Harrison brought up the Yogi and the phrase “Come Together right now over me” is an excerpt from the script telling them to use this song to build their bonds again and unite as one. Well, the Winter Carnival of Magic was a great bond-building time as nearly 400 magicians from all over the region got to “come together” in Pigeon Forge.

What our brothers in Ring 37 may not know is that the WCM “comes together” because of the volunteer efforts of our members. There is a lot of “pre-work” involved: Michael Messing handles most of the upfront advertising, the flyer layout, program compilation, and media; Jason Rieger keeps our website up to date and does all of the bios for the performers; Mike Stratman coordinates with our hotels and the Country Tonite facility; Tom Vorjohan (that’s me) puts together the talent and ultimately makes the schedule and lines up the talent for all of the shows. But that is just the tip of the iceberg! It is amazing how all of the details are taken care of – airport pickups, dealer room set up, close-up room layout, all of the registration and badge details, set ups, clean ups, lecture introductions, and on and on.

While some of these tasks are literally “assigned,” I have discovered what makes a WCM awesome is when our members go a step or two beyond what is

expected. We had former members who paid to attend volunteer to be a part of the convention and helped as crew backstage on both Friday and Saturday nights. Our registration chairman, the impeccably dressed Roger Reeves, was so drained and exhausted at the end of each day that he didn’t get to see either the Friday night or Saturday night stage shows – he went back to his hotel room and crashed! What incredible dedication!

And the stories are abundant...young members who let performers borrow their car, and older members who chauffeured performers to Krystal just before the evening show. It was this opportunity for our members to “come together” that make this 40<sup>th</sup> Winter Carnival enjoyable for all of our guests. We had a blast making the convention awesome.

So why do I mention this in your newsletter? Sure, there is a little chest pounding – we are very proud of our convention. But more importantly there is a lesson to be learned for all of us. It doesn’t matter if you are the “elected” officer in your Ring or not; each and every one of us can do something to help our club function a little better. If nothing else, do like Ring 58’s Bill Sturgis who just kept asking the various chairmen, “What can I do to help?” His efforts for our convention made a huge impact and we would have suffered without him. Try that this month: “What can I do to help?” Do what you can to make your Ring successful when they “come together”...right now.

## BAMBOOZLERS – THREE GLASS TOWER

By Diamond Jim Tyler

**BET:** Three empty glasses are presented. Someone is asked to balance one glass onto the rim of another glass and then to balance the third glass atop the second.

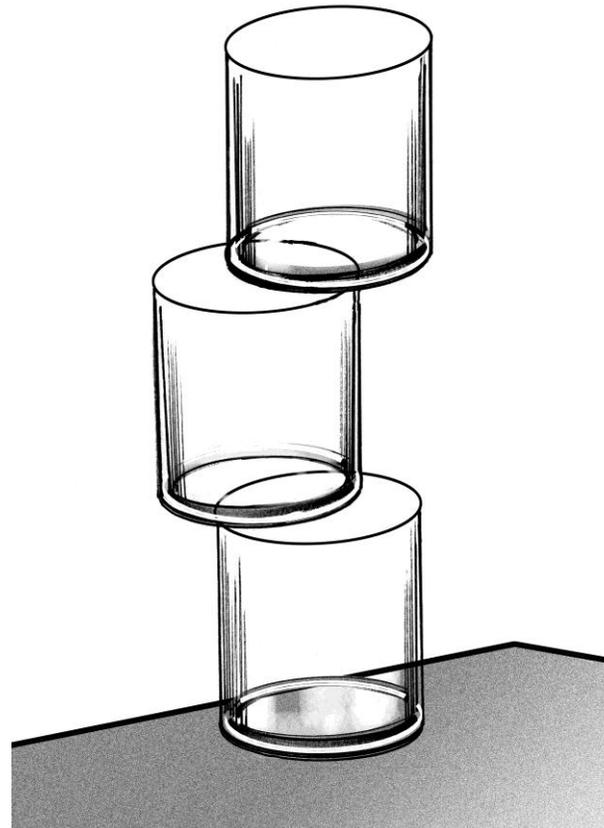
**SECRET:** The three glasses should be identical and have a thick rim. This works best with glasses that do not taper in size. While looking straight down at the glassware, pick up glass #2 with your left hand and balance the bottom center of it atop glass #1 in the ten o'clock position. Simultaneously pick up glass #3 with your right hand and balance the bottom center of it atop glass #2 in the two o'clock position (Fig. 1).

Slowly adjust the glasses with each hand until you can feel that they are balanced and let them go. Just remember ten and two o'clock. This is amazing when done right. *When it's done wrong you'll need a broom and some bandages.*

**Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betches, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters & Bewitchery: Volume Three** by Diamond Jim Tyler is available directly from Diamond Jim Tyler's website – <http://diamond-jim.com>

Expect the same classy style pocket-sized book. It contains 75 effects with over 100 illustrations and is bound in green faux leather, with silver gilt edges, silver foiled stamping and has a ribbon marker. The foreword of the book is by Mac King. The book is sold for \$19.95.

### BAMBOOZLERS



### Winter Carnival SnapShot – Levent Cimkentli Photo

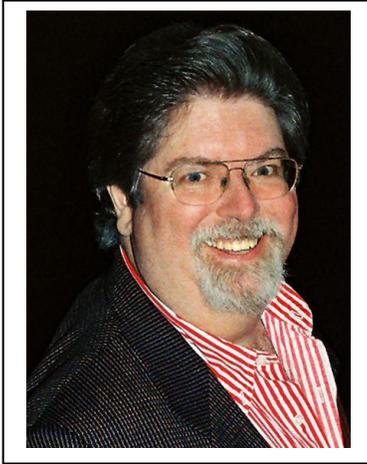


*"Hands across the Laotian"*  
–Levent

*"I saw her first!"*  
-Bargatze

*"Even with a great wingman it is sometimes still impossible to pick up chicks in public."*  
-Jimbo Hooten

## Down in the 'Boro - by Alan Fisher



After a recent event hosted by Ring 252, a bunch of us got together to talk magic at a local eatery (252ers love to eat). The topic came round to “doing magic” as someone mentioned they were “doing magic the other night” at a gig. I’ve always had an issue with that terminology. Going back as far as I can remember, I’ve always believed there were three categories to this topic. Just executing the mechanics was considered “doing magic”. Anyone can “do magic”. That Uncle with the cards tricks at the family reunion every year “did” magic. If you raised the bar and really worked at it, adding costuming & music & scripting & staging then you were “performing magic”. Most of the people booking a few shows a month that are well liked by their audiences would probably fall into this category. Then there’s “entertaining with magic”. That’s where you’ve got the mechanics down so pat it’s all muscle memory and you could do the effects in your sleep. You’ve added all the

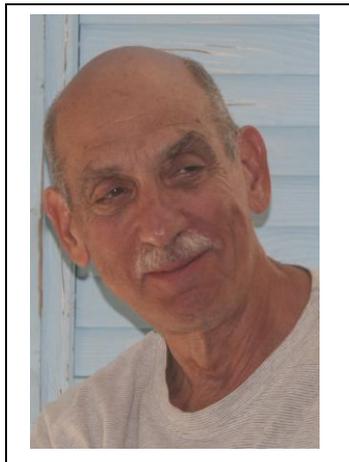
theatrical elements necessary to make it a good, solid performance. Now you take the final step and work to really connect with your audience in a way that ensures they are entertained by your performance. Even if you’re doing a serious act that’s set to music with no talking, you have to reach each and every member of that audience. They have to be engaged with you and the magic that’s happening or it’s just an exhibition of skill. You don’t sacrifice technique for showmanship. But as much work as you put into mastering the moves needs to be equaled by the work you put into making sure the audience is delighted and enthralled throughout your act. I’ve always believed performing magic gets you booked, entertaining with magic gets you rebooked.

This year I’ll be directing our spring show “*The Razzle Dazzle Magic Show XXIII*” on May 2nd & 3rd at the Center for the Arts in Murfreesboro. There’s a lot that goes into putting these shows together, from press releases to posters to programs to lining up crew members to (most important) casting a great group of entertainers that can offer your audiences a variety of styles of magic. Then you’ve got to put them in the right order so that the show builds nicely while not having similar acts back-to-back. And it all has to be held together by the hardest

working person in the show (and the one who gets the least respect), the Master of Ceremonies. For me, the choice for MC was Tom Gibson. Joining him on stage will be (relatively) new 252 members David Scott and Adam Sain along with long-time members Vickie Gibson, David Williams, and Jerry Fraley. It’s going to be a lot of fun and I hope you can join us for one of the performances. Showtime will be 7:02 PM each night. Ticket prices, available in advance at the Center Box Office or on their web site at <http://boroarts.org/tickets>, are \$10 with special \$5 seats for kids under 12.

I invite you to visit 252 for our next meeting on May 6th. The theme is Liquid Magic. Water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink . . . unless you magically make it appear. Hit us with your best liquid effect (not literally, of course, or you’re cleaning it up). Plus I’ll be leading the Teach-A-Trick segment. We hope to see you in the ‘boro soon. Remember, the magic red carpet is always rolled out for you at I. B. M. Ring 252!

## Guest Column – Mike Berger



*Note From the Editor/Publisher: After Stephen wrote his column and asked for first-time Winter Carnival attendees to share their impressions with the club we reached out to Mike Berger and asked him to share his thoughts. Mike responded quickly with this great review. We're giving Wayne the month off from his Kidz Korner column and sharing Mike's thoughts with you in its place. -JM*

### WINTER CARNIVAL IMPRESSIONS

Since I was a first-time attendee at the Winter Carnival of Magic in Pigeon Forge this past March, Jason and Stephen asked me to offer my impressions.

Sorry guys. I don't do impressions. (*Just kidding.*) OK, OK, here goes. I saw three overall weaknesses. In all of Pigeon Forge, I counted only 4 helicopter tour attractions, only 16 pancake houses, and only 2 beef jerky outlets. That's it! It's a wonder the town attracts any visitors.

As far as the Carnival goes, here's an acronym to sum up my impressions:

**C**ollegiality: Attendees were genuinely happy to renew old acquaintances, welcome new participants, and share their magic.

**A**ttention to detail: The event was very well-organized. I appreciated the time management and balance between lectures, contests, and shows.

**R**ing 37 participation: There were about 12 members from Ring 37 at the Carnival, which was really nice.

**N**ovelty: I loved the creativity. For example, Kayla, who won the close-up contest, did lots of magic as a bartender instructing a new recruit and Paul Gertner blew everyone away with his Braindrops show.

**I**nsights: One of the reasons I went to the Winter Carnival was to learn. The insights from both the planned sessions and informal discussions were terrific.

**V**ariety: I was pleased with the broad focus on close-up, parlor, and stage magic and the range of dealers (*who had all kinds of props, videos, books, and supplies to sell*).

**A**rtistry: One of the other reasons I went to the Winter Carnival was to be entertained and I wasn't disappointed. Jason and Stephen's Mentor Show was one the strongest (*and they didn't pay me to write this*), and there were other artistic performances that were mystifying, hilarious, and wonderful as well (*Stephen's and David Williamson's Friday night MC routine, Levent, and The NO Show*).

**L**ecturers: I thought the lecturers were all over the ballpark. Some were basic or just OK, but several lecturers (*Levent, Paul Gertner, and David Williamson*) were outstanding. I thought their ideas were very valuable.

So, to the question of whether I'd go back next year, I'd say, "A definite maybe, providing there are more beef jerky outlets."