

April 2015

Nashville Magic Club, IBM Ring 37 NEWSLETTER



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The Magic Community in Middle TN



The Nashville and middle TN area has a great magic community. Over the last several years I've enjoyed the opportunity to become close friends with many magicians. I've also witnessed the many magic clubs and associations support each other and support the magic events that go on in the area.

In March the Nashville Magic Club had several lectures as well as our regular monthly meeting. We had great turnouts to every event. See the picture above for a look at the Eric Jones lecture.

As one of the producers of The Magic All Stars show I have been so proud of how the local magic community has supported my (and the performer's) efforts to stage professional-caliber magical entertainment for a Nashville audience. The fact that I see some of the same faces in the audience month-in and month-out is very inspiring. I want to thank everyone who

has come out, spent their money and time with us, and helped spread the word.

In addition to great local events, the friendships that are built over shared interests often last lifetimes.

Unfortunately for each of us there is an unknown, limited timeline that we have to build relationships and enrich each other's lives. As I pen this article, Charles Rhodes has just passed away and many local magicians have been sharing their great memories of time spent with him.

I couldn't be more pleased to be a part of a community of kind, caring people who really care deeply about each other and support each other's families during difficult times.

-JM

Bargatze's Musings – To Lie or Not to Lie, That is the Question



“To be honest, I don’t think I would have won the IBM competition if I hadn’t taken his advice.”

What do you say when a magician asks you what you think about his or her act?

Let’s make this hypothetical situation worse...what if that person is a friend of yours, or a member of the same club? Senator Clark Crandall said that if another magician asks your advice, you should LIE. He went on to say that they really don’t want your advice, they only want you to say that they are great. They want to hear something along the lines of, “I have never seen you better” or “I am glad I was here to see that. The audience wasn’t very good”, but my favorite is “I am not sure that the audience was ready for that.”

Do we really want help, or do we just want to hear that what we’re doing is great? I am not sure. When I was competing in magic competitions I wanted to

hear how great I was.

I really only lost one convention contest that I entered. That doesn’t count all the Ring 37 club contests that I lost! What’s funny is that I was practicing my competition act that I won the IBM contest with in 2000. I entered our Christmas banquet contest and I lost! Good enough for the IBM but not so good for the Christmas banquet. I’m sure you can tell that I am over all that now☺.

But back to the point I was trying to get across, that is, if you think I ever had a point to make. In the one contest that I lost (I came in second at Winter Carnival), one of the judges gave me great advice.

Jim Hyams was the judge’s name and I was lucky enough to become great friends with him. To be honest, I don’t think that I would have won the IBM competition if I hadn’t taken his advice. Now I was upset at losing and I didn’t want to hear about the things I needed to change, but when I finally was able

to step back and listen I realized that this guy was trying to help me.

Let me jump off subject again. (Like I’ve never done that before!)

I often hear magicians say that it is hard for them to perform for other magicians. Well, first of all I wish all magicians were like Alan Fisher. Alan has the ability, as an audience member, to make you feel great that you are the world’s greatest and funniest magician alive. He has one of the greatest laughs that I have ever heard and he isn’t afraid to use it! I have seen times where he has caused the whole audience to enjoy the performer on a much higher level just because he was there.

The best part about Alan is that he is knowledgeable magician who knows what you are doing most of the time, he just doesn’t care. He laughs and applauds like it’s the first time he’s ever seen a magic trick. That’s the point. Magicians, deep down, are...

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Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

Nashville Magic Club, April Meeting – Thursday, April 23rd, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Andrew Price United Methodist Church, 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

The Magic All Stars at The Magic Lounge – April 25th from 8 pm until ??? at Bongo After Hours Theatre, 2007 Belmont Avenue, Nashville, TN.

The Magic All Stars floor show will begin at 8 pm and the theatre will transform into The Magic Lounge where performers will share interactive close-up magic with guests immediately following the show at approximately 9:30 pm.

www.facebook.com/magicalstars

www.bongoafterhours.com for tickets.

Razzle Dazzle Magic Show XXIV – Middle TN Magic Club, May 1 & 2 at 7:02 p.m. at The Murfreesboro Center for the Arts

www.ibmring252.com

Middle TN Magic Club, May Meeting – May 1 (first Tuesday of the month) at 7:02 pm. Murfreesboro, TN.



April's Meeting Theme is...Linking Ring Night

Show us something you have learned from the Linking Ring magazine.

In Concert: Tim Grant

Mini Lecture: Jimbo Hooten – Liquid Magic

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

Do you have magic to sell something to your fellow club members?

Email

president@nashvillemagicclub.com
the details of what you want to sell and your stuff might appear in this spot.

From the East by Tom Vorjohan



Some of you get it. Some of you don't. Luckily, the ones that don't get it already skimmed this and moved on to the next article. To me (and many others who are my friends and think similarly) magic clubs and conventions are all about the people I get to meet and hang out with. I guess it's a perk that I also get to see magic acts and shows and lectures, but what I like is the contacts I have made in magic.

So a few weeks after the Winter Carnival, Pam and I decided to spend her Spring break in Vegas and Hollywood. Long story short: Simone Marron (who attends several conventions -- the Winter Carnival twice) arranged for us to go over to Jeff McBride's house to hang out and have pizza! Her contact with Eugene Burger helped us get Eugene to this year's convention, and then he arranged four comp tickets to see Penn & Teller. So the four of us left the incredible McBride abode and drove to the Rio.

That alone is a great story, all made possible by the people I've met casually at conventions -- I'm hanging out with Eugene Burger and heading to Penn & Teller's show for free!

This, by far, is my favorite Vegas moment, and this follow-up is great. We walk in the back of the Rio -- the closet entrance to the theater, and we stroll up to the desk to pick up our tickets. Eugene politely requests the tickets for "Burger." The lady hands him the envelope, which he immediately opens to find only two tickets. He turns back to her and with that thick, sweet Burger voice he says, "There are suppose to be four tickets." It was typical "Eugene" -- not demanding, not rude, not angry -- just a pure statement of fact that kinda just trailed off with a slight vibrato from his beard that shook slightly as he told her this tidbit of information. The lady replies almost with a bit of disgust like he was trying to con her, and she says, "I'm sorry sir, that's all we have for you, there's nothing I can do about it." Then she pauses and says (more out of curiosity than for reasons of helpfulness), "Who did you speak with to arrange these tickets?" Eugene leans forward at the waist slightly, looking directly at her eyes, pauses a brief second, and he says one word: "Teller." Her eyes momentarily bug out, her body makes a microsecond convulsion, and she says, "Oh, let me make a quick call."

It reminded me of when Dorothy and the gang arrived at the Emerald City and the guy at the gate wouldn't let them in until Dorothy name-dropped the Wizard! I loved it, especially as Eugene turned around moments later and smiled through that beard as he handed each of us our ticket like he was passing out candy to his children. Nothing better than getting comped tickets...from Teller...arranged by Eugene Burger...who just performed at the Winter Carnival...because of a casual acquaintance I made at multiple conventions with the sweet Simone.

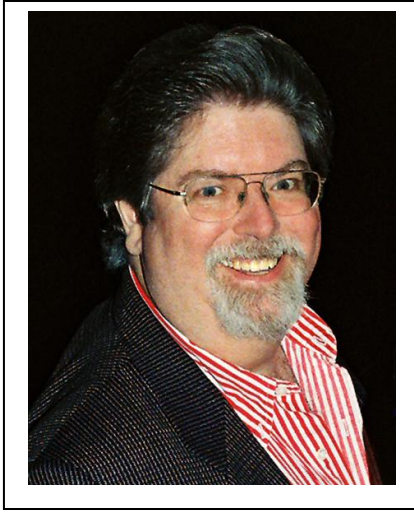
Okay, maybe there is a little better. This happened to our club member, Ben Young, who graduated from college a year ago and decided to forego his training in psychology and become a full-time magician. At last year's Winter Carnival, Ben was the "PA" for Gregory Wilson. The PA is the assigned personal assistant; he drives his assigned act around wherever needed and helps in whatever the guest requests.

Ben does such an awesome job of being the perfect cordial host, that Gregory turned in Ben's name to be on Wizard Wars and potentially another show! This year, Ben asked to be the PA for Murray SawChuck and his wife, Chloe. Again, Ben did a stellar job hosting these two Vegas icons. The week after the convention, Ben received a very nice package for his 23rd birthday from Murray and Chloe.

Then on Monday, April 6, Ben gets a text in the middle of the night from Murray; he wants Ben to fly to Vegas on Thursday to attend a party at the Riviera! Oh, and if Ben can make it, Murray will have Ben do two guest spots in his Planet Hollywood shows and also a guest spot for a USO show he's doing on Friday at the air force base in Vegas!

All because of a contact Ben made at a magic convention. It can't get any better than that. So, who wants to be a PA at next year's Winter Carnival?

Down in the Boro - by Alan Fisher



We just got back from *Winter Carnival of MAGIC 2015* and it was a memorable one. Congrats to joint 37 & 252 member Gary Flegal for winning not only 1st place in the stage competition but also being the People's Choice winner for stage.

Last month we talked about sound/music cues for an act. And I promised we'd chat about lighting this month, so here goes.

You need lighting.

You need better lighting that you think.

You need more lighting than you've got.

Any questions?

In a lot of situation you have no control over the lighting. You're in someone's living room or on their back deck. You're at a picnic pavilion or table hopping at a restaurant. You can't adjust the lighting there. But you can look at the space and determine where the best lighting is going to be so you know where you want set-up, if possible. I'm really thinking more about a corporate show in a banquet room or stage show in a theater where lighting is controllable and the right lighting is key.

What kind of show or act are you doing? If it's heavy on comedy then you probably want lots of lights. If you hope to do more and more stage work then you need to get used to very bright stage lights and train yourself to see with them in your eyes. It's uncomfortable to be watching a performer who squints all the time. And you can't keep asking the tech crew to repeatedly dim the lighting more and more. From on stage or in a big room like a banquet hall, you need to be well lit or you won't be seen. Even if you're going for a "mood" with dramatic lighting, make sure it's not too dark or the only mood you'll be putting your audience in is ticked off because they paid \$30 a head for a show and can't see anything that you're doing. If possible, you want the audience in very subdued lighting or no lights at all (ideally you want more lights on you than on them). This puts all the focus on your performance.

That's it for now. We hope to see you in the 'boro soon for one of our meetings (first Tuesday of each month – our May meeting will be on 5/5), any of our shows ("**Razzle Dazzle Magic Show XXIV**") will be held Friday & Saturday, May 1st & 2nd at the Center for the Arts), or any of our other events. We love visitors.

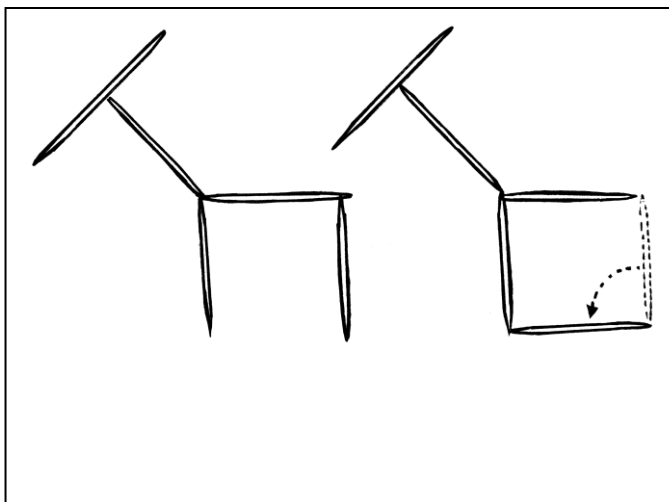
Remember, the magic red carpet is always rolled out for you at I. B. M. Ring 252!

BAMBOOZLERS – GIRAFFE PUZZLE

By Diamond Jim Tyler

BRAIN TEASER: Make a giraffe out of five toothpicks (Fig. 1). The challenge is to move one toothpick from one place to another to create a similar-looking giraffe.

SECRET: Simply move the toothpick as shown in Figure 2. You'll notice that it is the same giraffe only facing a different direction. As simple as this is you'll find that it really stumps people. I'd like to thank my friend Martin Gardner for showing me this. Martin is a fountain of knowledge and the author of more than 100 books on various interesting subjects. If you like things like this, then hunt for a copy of Mr. Gardner's Encyclopedia of Impromptu Magic. *I can't tell you how old Martin is, but he did show me his social security card. His was number 3.*



Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Beggars, 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.

Bargatze, continued.

pulling for you to do a good job. They want you to entertain everyone. They want to be entertained themselves. It's only better for magic if you do a great job.

I guess the real question then is should we LIE or tell the truth. What is truth? Is your truth the same as mine? The real question should be, what do you want to do with this trick or performance piece you have shared with us? Is it for your show, or is it just something you are working on to show your friends and or to do at the club meetings? Is the trick original to you? If not, what have you changed about it?

I say that because if you are mimicking another magician, like Jeff Hobson, Jeff McBride, or David Copperfield, then what can I say about that? My only response is, "Do I think you are better than whoever you are mimicking?"

The only feedback I can share with you in that scenario is I could see the trick and if you flashed to the people on one side of you or not. At the SAM club meeting we give our advice to the anyone who asks. I am always glad that Wayne Clemons is one adult who isn't afraid to ask and always seems to listen. Whenever I am asked to give advice and then the person that I am giving it to starts to make excuses, then I LIE.

Let me end with this. I saw Kevin King perform at The Magic All Stars show a month and he was great!