

August 2014

Nashville Magic Club, IBM Ring 37 NEWSLETTER



Lectures Abound!!!

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July was full of fun and lots of learning. There were two great lectures that occurred in the middle TN area.

July 22nd the Nashville Magic Club hosted Kyle Marlett. Kyle wowed the crowd of about eighteen magicians with highly visual, funny magic, gags, and bits.

Kyle also shared a great idea that is guaranteed to help some enterprising magician make a lot of money in tips. Everyone in attendance agreed that Kyle was a hit!

On July 31st the Middle TN Magic Club in Murfreesboro

hosted Wayne Houchin. The Nashville Magic Club had a strong showing of almost a dozen magi who made the trip a little down south to visit with our sister club and learn some very solid magic.

Houchin's magic was very well structured and he was a charming performer. Personally, as I experienced Houchin's creations I was inspired to work harder on the magic that I perform and create. Bravo Murfreesboro. Another great lecture!

The July meeting was a little different than our normal monthly meeting. We

enjoyed "Game Night" and played several different magic-themed games.

We also enjoyed having Ben Boutwell visit with us and teach everyone the card based role-playing game **Mafia**.

The "Albert" family was representing strong that night with grandparents and more visiting from Philadelphia.

Our meetings are being well attended and everyone is having a blast. Bring a friend with to our August meeting. We would love to have them.

Bargatze's Musings – Hello



“I think from now on when I start my show the first word out of my mouth will be Hello.”

Paul Draper... remember him? He did a lecture in Murfreesboro a couple of years ago and I signed up for his newsletter.

I know we all get enough emails, but reading about our profession and getting insight from someone doing what we do can't hurt. Besides I can delete them if I am short on time.

With this leg thing I've been going through I have had nothing but time on my hands. This month I read the whole email. In fact, I even did a little research on the subject he was talking about.

The subject was first impressions. I ended up on a website with a bunch of people saying the word "Hello." The site asked which of the people you would trust the most. At the end of the experiment I picked the person who almost all of the people taking the test

picked too. I thought it was funny how that worked. Just one word and I was able to decide whether or not I trusted the person.

I think from now on when I start my show the first word out of my mouth will be "Hello".

What I have been doing is to walk out, let them look at me, and make up their own mind of just who or what I am. After a long time of looking at them I say, "How ya doin?" in a country accent.

I still like the idea of them looking at me and getting a chance to make up their mind as to who they think I am.

Often, when I tell a joke or do something funny I will not say or do what people would think I would say or do. I like to let them complete the joke in their mind. I always do this if there is a part to the joke that

might be a little risky. And if any blue material happens to come up in the show, I would never ever say the dirty line. That's too easy. I would rather let the audience say the line they are thinking. I want them to make the joke themselves.

I feel that silence is sometimes the best way for me to start my show.

So start thinking about how you start your performances. I can't count how many times I've seen people at our club start their performance by giving excuses about why something might not work, or by saying something like, "I've just started to do this."

We need to just say Hello.

Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

Nashville Magic Club, August Meeting – August 28th, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Andrew Price United Methodist Church at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

Stephen Bargatze and Jason Michaels are set to tag team for this month's In Concert and Mike Berger will share a mini-lecture demonstrating Mike's New Magic Product.

Vegas at Ventures – Saturday, August 30th at 7 pm. Ventures Lounge is located at 152 N. Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066

Vegas at Ventures is a full variety Las Vegas-styled revue that pays homage to the entertainment of retro Las Vegas circa the 1940s and 50s! The show features "Big Daddy Cool" Johnny Dellarocca and his partner Lana

LaMoore – new vintage variety artists who fuse hit music from the 20th century, amazing magic and illusion, dance, comedy, and audience participation. Creator and producer Johnny Dellarocca says "It is the kind of show audiences would have seen in the Las Vegas nightclubs of the swing era."

Tickets are \$10 in advance and can be reserved at www.bigdaddycoolmagic.com or by calling Joy at Ventures Lounge at 615-943-7297.

Contact one of the club's officers with your show information and we will include it in this section.



August's Meeting's Theme is...Colorful Magic

Tonight let's celebrate magic that is visual, bright, and colorful. Color changes, silk magic, and who knows what else! Bring something that is vivid and bright and show us your true colors!

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.

From the East by Tom Vorjohan



So much going on. I'm going to write this month's column like a scatter-brained wizard just to get it all in. Here we go...

...The combined I.B.M./S.A.M. convention appeared very successful with about 1,300 attendees. The dealers room was a great place to hang out, the stage contest preliminaries went on for three days, the concept of the themed evening shows (one being the "Magic of Germany" and another being the "Magic of Korea") was a great idea but neither was a stellar show in my opinion, the final "FISM North America" stage and close-up contests were strong but the results were odd since the same acts competed but the four sets of judges (I.B.M., S.A.M., People's Choice, and FISM) picked different winners. But all-in-all, it was a fun time in St. Louis!

...Went to Terry Evanswood's show in Pigeon Forge a few weeks ago, and it was very impressive. You will spend less money on his show than you will on fudge, and you will enjoy it much more. There were several new tricks that Terry has worked in for this season including a piece where he and the crew are out catching fireflies. Met with him after the show, and he had me come backstage (and I use that term loosely because there really isn't much space at the Wonder Works stage!) to see how he accomplishes the DeKolts Chair without a trap door in the stage – brilliant!

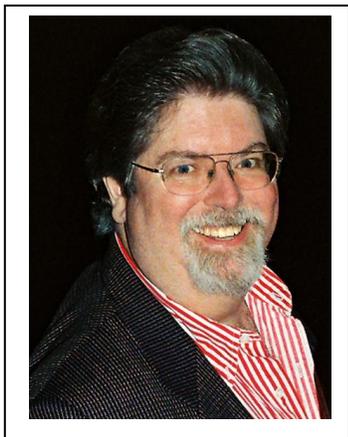
...The Kidabra conference is coming up in Pigeon Forge beginning August 12. This is always a strong convention with some of the best children's and family entertainers from around the world. I've personally been the past few years,

but I'm in the dealer's room working with Michael Messing taking promotional photos of magicians. (FYI...Michael is quickly becoming the "Magicians' Photographer" as well as shooting photos for The Linking Ring, M-U-M, and MAGIC Magazine. If you are ever in need of photos, consider having Michael take them.)

...The Winter Carnival is slowly leaking out some information about the acts hired for 2015, but I'll tell you some of the latest additions before they even make it on the Ring 58 website! I talked with Eugene Burger, and he will be at the WCM. In fact – although the time is not set in stone – he will be doing his stage performance on Thursday night called "Dark Stories" with Michael Carbonaro (YES, that guy from Leno's show who now has his own show on TruTV called "The Carbonaro Effect"). Also on Thursday, we will have mentalist Lee Earle lecturing, and then on Sunday he will be offering a more intense mentalism workshop for a separate paid amount. And I am very proud to announce that the Magic Castle's librarian and "Close-up Magician of the Year" – Bill Goodwin – will be performing in our close-up show on Saturday and he will be lecturing during the convention; Bill rarely makes convention appearances, so this was a real score for the WCM!

...I will be heading to the Atlanta Harvest of Magic which will be September 11-13. Ken Scott has put this one together, and there is some great talent scheduled there. But the talent is only a small part of the benefit of conventions – it's about hanging with other magicians and enjoying our love of magic.

Down in the Boro - by Alan Fisher



As I wrapped up the column last month, the magic world was heading for St. Louis and the 10th IBM/SAM combined convention. I was at the 9th in Louisville and had high expectations for this one. It came close to fulfilling them but simultaneous scheduling of some main events meant you could not do everything and that was disappointing. I had a good time but just wish I hadn't been forced on four separate occasions to choose between a lecture and part of the competition. Those 50 or so performers who entered the contests worked (perhaps) years on their acts and deserved more respect. It's hard enough competing against the best in the world without also having to compete for an audience against world-class lecturers.

That said, what I did get to see was some great magic and a lot of old friends. The 4F Kick-Off Gala was wonderful but not as good as it

could have been because planned MC Stephen Bargatze was at home recovering from knee surgeries (what some people won't do to get out of driving to St. Louis). Incoming IBM International President Shawn Farquhar filled in for him (if you gotta get a sub, get the best) and even did Stephen's *I Hate Kids* routine. The 4F 'In Session' lecture was also great as was the 'Session' from the team of magicians from Germany (their show was fantastic). Individual lectures from David Stone and Henry Evens were standouts as was the incredible Magic of Korea show that closed the convention. But the creativity and skill in many of the acts in the competition were the big highlight of the week. Tennessee's own Ed Ripley and Shank had them rolling in the aisle with their comedy stage act and I hear Ed also did a nice job in close-up with his multi-faceted Cups 'n Balls routine (didn't get to see it – was at a lecture).

The real test of a convention's success is the answer to the question, "Are you coming back?" In that respect, it was for me as I hope to attend the next combined in 2017 when it returns to Louisville. With luck there won't be any scheduling conflicts or the need for everybody to be bussed to a

theater across town when there's a perfectly good theater across the street. Not sure if I'll make it to Jacksonville, FL for IBM in 2015 (or Philadelphia, PA that year for SAM) or San Antonio, TX for IBM in 2016 (might be able to make Indianapolis, IN for SAM that year). But that's a ways away and we've got several Winter Carnivals in-between to enjoy first.

We hope to see you in the 'boro for any of our meetings (first Tuesday of each month – details on our web site at www.IBMring252.com), any of our shows (our *Fall Festival of MAGIC 2014* is October 3rd & 4th), or any of our events (we're working on some more lectures). We love visitors. Remember, the magic red carpet is always rolled out for you at I.B.M. Ring 252!

The Kidz Korner by Magic Wayne



DON'T BE AFRAID OF TRYING SOMETHING NEW!!

Have any of you heard the following phrase; “A Magician never changes his tricks, he changes his audience”. To a point this is true. But if you do ‘Kids Magic’ it doesn’t always fit. Of course it’s great when you have a routine that has been perfected and you know it so well you can do it with your eyes closed. When you have put in hours of practice or years of doing one routine, it’s nice to have those tricks that are in your “Comfort Zone”.

However...if you are afraid of trying something new then where are you going with your magic? Don’t be afraid of trying something new so you don’t get content or bored with your magic. Now I’m not saying you need to change all of your tricks, routines and show every few years. What I am suggesting is to explore something new from time to time. What do you really have to lose? I can tell you what you may miss.....SUCCESS. Especially when doing Kids Magic.

When it comes to doing Kids Magic, you may find that sometimes your audience doesn’t change as much as you think. I remember a time when I was being hired for parties based on referrals from kids or parents who had seen my show at someone else’s party. I found myself in a situation where my audience only changed by a couple of kids from one show to another. So I would be fooling myself if I thought doing the exact same routines for each party would satisfy my audience. I agree with the

saying about the greatest form of flattery is when you get re-hired to come back again. But it can also create a challenge.

Don’t try and come up with two complete and different shows. That’s not what I am suggesting either. When this happened to me, I still did the same routines that were very interactive or had a dynamic about the trick that caused it to never come out the same way twice. But there were some tricks that once you knew how it turned out, it would not be as entertaining seeing it a second time. In those instances I tried something new. I didn’t put these routines in position to be the finale of my show. Instead, I placed them in between the routines that I didn’t want to change.

The last thing thought I will share is something I feel pretty strong about. **DON’T LET YOURSELF GET IN A RUT or GET BORED WITH WHAT YOU’RE DOING.** It’s very true that repetition in our business and art form can make you very successful. You learn by doing something repetitively through muscle memory and by fine tuning your routine. But once you reach that point where there isn’t much left to fine tune, you may find yourself getting bored. You don’t want to look bored when you do the routine. Your audience may get bored if they see the same thing over and over with same outcome. I know I feel that way when I see a Magician perform the same routine for the third and fourth time.

So...explore new ideas and routines. Most of us started doing magic as a hobby. If we only bought one trick and learned to perform it well, showed all our friends but never learned another trick, is this still called a hobby? Or would it be a fad? Do we go to lectures with the intent of not learning something new? Do we say to ourselves, it doesn’t matter what he teaches tonight, I won’t be able to use it because I can’t change my show. If you have ever thought these things to yourself, then why go? Don’t you think your audience has the same reaction if they think of you as the magician who does the same tricks over and over?