

# Nashville Magic Club, IBM Ring 37

## NEWSLETTER



### Your 2013 Officers

- Jason Michaels, President
- Tom Gibson, Vice President
- Stephen Bargatze, Sergeant at Arms
- Vickie Gibson, Treasurer
- Greg Slate, Secretary
- Greg Slate, Webmaster

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## GIVING THANKS!

We just celebrated Thanksgiving last week and I thought I would take a moment to give thanks to everyone who has helped make 2013 a fantastic year for the Nashville Magic Club.

First off, thank **YOU**. Yes, if you have participated in any of the meetings, if you've read the newsletter, if you've come to the lectures, if you've done a teach a trick, if you've been featured In Concert, if you've been willing to share your knowledge in the Kidz Korner, or been a part of the swap and sell...if you have, in any way, been a part of this club, I thank you and I appreciate you. You have made this club a great place over the last year.

I would like to take a moment and specifically thank a few people who have been willing to put a lot of time into the club over the last year outside of the meetings.

Thank you to Tom Gibson. Tom has served as the Vice President of the club this past year and he has done an excellent job. He and I emailed back and forth on numerous things and were always able to get club business taken care of easily and quickly. Anytime I had a conflict and couldn't be at a meeting, Tom was ready to step up and keep things running smoothly. Additionally, Tom spent quite a bit of time coming up with the different themes for the meetings. He has been a pleasure to work with.

Thank you to Stephen Bargatze.

Stephen was our Sergeant at Arms this year and did a great job of rounding up people who wanted to perform at every meeting. I know Stephen went out of his way to get a number of folks to break out of their shell and get up in front of the club and share some magic with us. And, like Tom, Stephen also gave me some great ideas on things that we could do at meetings. If I remember correctly, the Kids Korner was all Stephen's idea. And that doesn't even mention the time he spent sharing his thoughts with us in his monthly newsletter column. Thank you very much, Sir.

Thank you to Vickie Gibson. Vickie has the unique ability to work behind the scenes as well as in the spotlight. Vickie took care of making sure all of our bookkeeping was done this year and making sure all the members kept up with their dues. This is a very important job. Without someone to collect money and write checks we wouldn't be able to enjoy some of the lectures we had this year. Thank you Vickie!

Thank you Greg Slate for being willing to fulfill the roles of Secretary and Webmaster! Greg did a great job of getting every one of these newsletters up on the website in a timely fashion. He also spent a lot of time creating flyers to promote our meetings and posting them on the website. Greg also sent out several email blasts to let folks know what was new in the club. He did a wonderful job

this year. Thank you for your time and your talent, Greg!

Thank you Dr. Gary Flegal. Dr. Flegal was willing to take charge of the role of coordinating the Kidz Korner. He rounded up speakers and performers and we had a great Kids Korner every month. I know that everyone really enjoyed these new parts of the meetings. Thank you Gary!

A big thank you to Tom Vorjohan. Tom is a member of Ring 58 in Knoxville, is very involved in planning the Winter Carnival of Magic, and is a personal friend of mine (and many other NMC members). Tom was so kind as to share a column with us every month titled From the East. He highlighted the magic that is going on in our sister club and on the eastern side of our state. I really appreciate the time that Tom put into writing his column every month. He went above and beyond and I truly appreciate it.

It's difficult to try and remember everyone that I need to thank personally because over the last year there have been so many people willing to share their time with us. So, again, I say thank you. And if I didn't mention you specifically, please don't think that I don't appreciate your contribution. Not only do I appreciate it, so does the club. Thanks all!

-JM

## Bargatze's Musings – Happy Christmas



*“Yes, even in magic we have the classics and we should all spend time learning them. It is important to keep true to the classics. They are classic for a reason.”*

Happy Christmas is what all my friends from the other side of the pond always say. I kind of like it, so Happy Christmas. I like Merry Christmas too; I just really feel that the Christmas must stay. We were founded as a Christian nation with Christian beliefs and traditions.

There's nothing like keeping things the way they started, the classics, so to speak. The classics...watching “It's a Wonderful Life”, that red-nosed reindeer guy, singing along with Bing with “White Christmas” (which by the way is the number one all-time selling song), Christmas trees, Advent candles, jingle bells, Linking Rings, silk to egg, egg bag, card to pocket, mental epic, card to wallet, triumph, color changing deck, color changing silk, rabbit out of a hat, cup and ball...**What?!?** How did that happen?

Yes, even in magic we have the classics and we should all spend time learning them. It is important to keep true to the classics. They are classic for a reason.

If a trick has been around for years it means that it has been audience tested and it has passed the test of time. Everybody loves a classic trick if is performed right. And a bonus with the classic trick is that you will learn how to present it well. That will help you with any magic you do. With my cups and ball routine, I learned how to streamline the magic when I went to a single cup; I chopped the routine so to speak. I still got what was important to the plot of the cups and balls, but I got there faster.

Working on my cups also taught me a big lesson in how to handle a

spectator. There was a time when my cup routine involved a gun. We know that is not possible today. I had to add something to the routine because I was taking the gun away. I added another classic, the bill in lemon. For me it has worked out great. Years before that, I added a watch steal to the cups. So if you look at my chop cup routine it is really three classic effects all rolled up into one, not a bad idea. How can you go wrong with that? Another example is when I added a card to pocket section to my ambitious card routine.

It is always good to take the time during Christmas to look at your life...the friends you have, your family, etc. It's also good to look back at your year with this thing we call magic. Are we happy with our magic? If not, take a look at the classics.

Speaking of the classics, we lost a good magician this season when we lost Jim Ford. When I was first getting into magic Jim was the one who showed me that anything can be funny. He just had a way to make people laugh. One thing that I really remember about Jim is that he always came to a magic meeting ready to perform. I cannot tell you how many times he won the Magician of the Year award based on his always being willing to perform at the club. And the award was always well deserved. Jim was a lifetime member of Ring 37. I am sure Dick Staub is waiting for Jim with a deck of cards, just to get a laugh!

## Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

### Nashville Magic Club – Christmas Banquet

Come and enjoy fellowship with friends, yummy eats, and compete in the Christmas Party Best Trick Competition at this year's Christmas Banquet. Our December Meeting will be our annual Christmas Banquet. It will be held December 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at Andrew Price Methodist Church (downstairs) at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE – The Christmas Banquet will take the place of our normal monthly meeting. It will be held on the second Thursday of this month, December 12<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Do you have a show or event coming up you would like to promote?

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



## December's Meeting's Theme is...Christmas Banquet

Making the list and checking it twice, we will discover who participated most over the last year, in making our club meetings fun, inspiring and instructive.

## 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

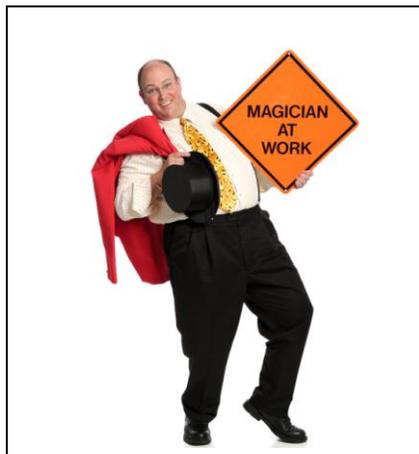
Abbott's Sword Basket

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



Tis the season, so my fondest holiday greetings to all of you! Over in our side of the state it's pretty obvious that we are in the stretch for Christmas. I was in Pigeon Forge prior to Thanksgiving, and the lights are up, shoppers abound, and the shows are all converted for the Christmas programs.

I was talking with my buddy, Stephen Knowles, and he has added a couple of jokes to his set with the talking dog relating to the holidays. I went to the Hatfield & McCoy show, and the whole show has morphed for the holidays...costumes, music, scenery, and even the underlying story of the show! If you are having trouble getting into the Christmas spirit, just grab your shopping list and head over here for a couple of days and catch a show.

Speaking of show, more progress is being made with the Winter Carnival of Magic. If you are not on our mailing list, you should send me an email with your physical address so that you can receive this year's flyer – we went full color! Actually, we have been working with a graphic designer who has re-done our ad (first one will be in your December "Linking Ring") as well as our flyer, program, and even the badges. We are excited...I mean it took us till our 40th to go color! (My email is: [TVorjohan@charter.net](mailto:TVorjohan@charter.net))

I'm filling in the last few acts for the convention. I confirmed Geoff Williams just this week. Geoff will be doing close-up and lecturing, plus I talked to him about doing his 10-minute "Postal" routine on one of the stage shows. This is the routine that he uses to close his set at the Magic Castle. You will love it! I'm meeting with a couple other members of Ring 58 in 30-minutes for lunch to discuss the schedule.

I hope this is a fun and busy time for my friends in Nashville! Business for me has picked up a little this holiday season, so I am thankful for that. I wish you all a very magic-filled and magical month of December.



## BAMBOOZLERS – ABOUT FACE

By Diamond Jim Tyler



**BET:** Prop up a \$10 bill against a salt-shaker sitting on a table so that the portrait faces outward. Everyone can see that the profile faces to the left or west (Fig. 1). Bet that you can make the profile look the opposite direction without touching the bill.

**SECRET:** Fill a clear glass with water and place it about four inches in front of the bill. Now when your audience looks through the glass all can see the portrait is looking the opposite direction (Fig. 2). The image may be distorted for some depending on their angle when looking at this optical illusion. If they see a blurred or double-image, then have them close one of their eyes to witness the mirror reflection of the bill through the glass of water.

You can also start with the bill flush against the glass so all can see that the profile still faces the same direction. Then slowly pull the bill back and have them look at the portrait through the glass so they can see the exact moment the head turns the opposite direction. As a

follow-up I'll ask them "Which President is on the \$10 bill?", as I cover up his name printed below his portrait. If they guess Alexander Hamilton, then they are surprisingly incorrect, because it is a trick question. Hamilton was a founding father and the Secretary of the Treasury, but was never President.

It is best to borrow the bill when performing a money trick like this. *I always borrow money from a pessimist, because they don't expect it back.*

**Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters & Bewitchery: Volume Three** by Diamond Jim Tyler is out now.

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 will be sold exclusively at [www.diamondjim.com/originals](http://www.diamondjim.com/originals) for \$19.95.

## BAMBOOZLERS

By Diamond Jim Tyler



## The Prez's Corner – An Immersive Experience

Last month I was in Las Vegas on a business trip. While I was there I had a chance to catch a show and spend a little time taking in the experience that is Vegas.

The first evening I was there I had the opportunity to catch the Blue Man Group show at the Monte Carlo Resort. Until that night, I had never seen the Blue Man Group.

Now I knew who they were as a performance group, but I had no knowledge of what to expect other than some guys in blue make-up and body paint drumming on contraptions made out of PVC pipe.

Whoa! I don't know what I was expecting, but I know I wasn't expecting the immersive universe that the Blue Man Group created for show-goers.

From the moment I stepped into the theater, I was enveloped in the Blue Man world. There were giant "eyeballs" floating over everyone's heads, a robot walking around the stage corresponding with audience members, multimedia messages that engaged us, and way

more. It was impossible to not get lost in this "world" they had created. The show itself was incredibly creative, dynamic, and continued taking audience members down the rabbit hole into the Blue Man culture.

But we don't have to focus solely on Blue Man Group. Let's take a look at the bigger picture. Las Vegas itself is an immersive experience. From the moment you start thinking about Vegas different pictures pop into your head of what to expect. And when you land at the airport there are tons of signs and video touting the biggest and best Vegas has to offer. Experiencing Vegas is nothing like experiencing the world that most of us lives in day to day. Vegas has created a very effective illusion. It has created an experience unlike anywhere else in the world. And millions of people every year will pay top dollar to enjoy that experience.

It really was the experience of Blue Man Group that got me thinking about creating immersive experiences. So let me pose a few more questions to make me (and you) think about them. Can we control the experience of an audience member or client so they get lost in our world

from the moment they hear about our upcoming show? Can we create such a well thought out experience that audience members and guests continue to experience our magic after they get home from it? How can we guarantee that audience members will get lost in an experience that we are trying to create?

I think these are really important questions for us, as creators, performers, and producers to ask. By creating experiences that our guests can get lost in, we can help them escape from the harshness of reality and inspire them to live bigger, fuller lives.

-JM



# NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

