

June 2013

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

Individual Highlights:

Bargatze	2
Upcoming	3
From the East	4
Bamboozler	5
Prez's Corner	6

Dr. Gary Flegal In Concert at June Meeting!!!



Jason: How did you get started in magic?

Gary: Two things-when I was about 8 or 9 I went to a father/son banquet at my church and there was a magician. He asked me up on stage. I still remember the trick...it was Mental Epic. After the magician wrote down his prediction, I tried to trick him and he still got it right. I now do that same trick in my show!

The other thing was Mark Wilson's TV show. It was on Saturday morning TV. I was there every Saturday watching it. I then started checking out books from the library. Every time we had company over with other kids I made them come to my bedroom and watch my magic show.

J: How long have you been doing magic?

G: Since I was eight or nine, but I started doing shows when I was 23. I remember making a trip to Paul Diamond's magic shop in Ft. Lauderdale. I bought a Professor's Nightmare, a Wild Card and the BrainWave Deck.

J: And how long have you been in the IBM and what has your membership provided you?

G: I started with the IBM in '79. My membership has given me

the opportunity to meet a lot of great people. I really enjoy getting The Linking Ring every month. When I first started getting it, that magazine helped me feel as though I was a part of a big secret community.

J: Do you have a favorite trick?

G: I'm not sure if I have just one. My current show is filled with some of my favorites. I feel that you really have to enjoy performing the tricks to do them long enough to get good at them. I love the ball routine that I do. I love mentalism. I love the Miser's Dream. I think my Floating Table is really special.

J: You have a distinct style and you present lots of different magic with unique presentations. Do you have any advice on how to present magic with a distinct style?

G: It really has to be something that fits you. I've tried to take different things and do them the way the directions said or the way that someone else did them and they have failed miserably. They just didn't fit me. It takes a while to trust yourself enough to be who you are with your magic. I've really gotten comfortable with myself. Hopefully my audience has fun because it looks like I am having fun doing what I am doing. And I am.

J: You are such a likable

performer onstage. You have a huge, contagious grin and you look like you are having a blast up there. Tell us why you enjoy performing magic.

G: The kinds of responses that we get with magic are incredible. The whole idea of creating a sense of wonder is somewhat unique to magic and it's fun to be the person who delivers that. That puts a bit of pressure on the performer because you have to have a high level of skill to your presentation in order to do good magic. One of the reasons some people don't hold magic in high regard is because we don't always hold ourselves up to the standard that is necessary in order to really 'Wow' them. Creating a feeling that it is real and in the moment in order to create that sense of wonder can be difficult. We're doing something that can't possibly happen and we have to sell it as real and in the moment.

J: Is there anything specific you want to accomplish this year or that you look forward to?

G: I just want to keep getting out there and performing more and more.



Bargatze's Musings – How to Kill a Magic Club



“More members mean more magic, more lectures, and more fun.”

How to kill a magic club? I've been thinking about this question for awhile. In fact, it may not be a question as much as it is a statement.

The Nashville Magic Club, Ring 37, has been through many ups and downs. I believe that right now we are at one of the high points of the club. I have been with Ring 37 since 1978 and have seen both the highs and lows.

The thing that really makes all the difference in the health of any magic club is the leadership and how the leadership and members relate to each other and work together. I feel like we currently have a strong leadership that really wants the club to do

well. And I see members attend month in and month out who have made a commitment to be at the meetings and to participate. There seems to be an excitement about the meetings. One of the things I am happy about is that the rivalry between members no longer seems to be there. But there is still more we can do.

I'd like to challenge the members to help grow our club. First, reach out and contact old friends and former members who were once a part of the club to come back and see what is going on. Second, be on the lookout for people who you might run into when you do a show or when you share one of your favorite tricks.

If someone goes out of their way to comment on your trick or ask the question, *“Wow that is great. How do you ever learn to do such a thing?”* then you have the perfect candidate for

someone who you might like to invite to one of our meetings.

Remember we allow new people to attend three meetings before we really ask that they do something. And the only reason we do that is just to make sure that these newbies are really here to learn instead of just take. We want to avoid giving away all of the secrets to people who don't really appreciate the art that we all love.

I guess this month all I am really trying to say is while things are going well with the club this is the perfect time to continue to grow our membership. More members mean more magic, more lectures and more fun. Let's all try to reach out to someone this year.



Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

Middle TN Magic Club, Ring 252 Annual Picnic and Magic Flea Market Swap and Sell. Saturday, June 8th starting at 4 p.m. Hot dogs and hamburgers to be served around 6 p.m. Fellowship hall at The Florence Church of Christ, 6732 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro, TN.

The Voodoo Swing Circus featuring the magic of John B. Pyka, June 14th at the East-Centric Pavillion at 1006 Fatherland, Nashville, TN. Doors open at 8 and the show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Louisville Magic Festival, June 14-16 in Louisville, Ky. For more information www.louisvillemagicfestival.com

Middle TN Magic Club is hosting the Tom Craven lecture, Tuesday, June

25th. Tom's knowledge of magic is extensive, spanning all disciplines. Tom will present a cornucopia of magic, from close-up to stand-up to mentalism. The lecture begins at 7:02 and will be held at The Florence Church of Christ, 6732 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro, TN

Nashville Magic Club featuring Dr. Gary Flegal In Concert, June Meeting – June 27, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Andrew Price Methodist Church at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

Do you have a show 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.



June Meeting's Theme is...Grads and Grooms

'Tis a season of change, new beginnings, forging new lives, and dreaming big dreams. Time for your magic to rise to the next level, too. So, take an old trick and help it grow up, or marry two tricks together to make a new union.

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

Do you have some used magic that you would like to sell to another magician or magic enthusiast?

The Classified Ad section of the newsletter is here for you to get the word out. Contact a club officer today with the details and we'll list your magic here for everyone to see.

From the East by Tom Vorjohan



It is sweet summer time, and that means school is out and tourists are arriving. I got together with Stephen Knowles (ventriloquist at the Comedy Barn for 16 years), and he said their schedule is going to twice a day as of this past weekend.

On a totally unrelated note, our Ring has had three new teenagers join in the past couple months, plus our newly elected Program Chairman is only 22-years old -- and now we have a new found energy in our meetings! What an awesome difference a few guys can make. These guys are all still in high school, but they have some chops. If you can "find" some of these young guns in your area, I highly recommend it.

And they need your Ring, too. They learn almost all of their

magic from the videos on the Internet. As such, they have no idea about whose trick they are doing, any variations of it, or the history of it. More critically, they need performance exposure -- how to look at the audience and how to "entertain" with their skills in magic. This is a great way to have the seasoned veterans in your club span the generation gap with the young magicians.

Oh, and I guess I should let you know I have hired THREE acts for next year's Winter Carnival. I'm not telling "who" yet, but since this is our 40th WCM I have one performer from our first convention, one from our second, and one from our third! Personally, I am hugely excited! Make sure you block out March 6, 7, and 8 of 2014!



BAMBOOZLERS – STUFFING

By Diamond Jim Tyler

GAG: Whilst sitting on a couch the magician gets bored and removes the stuffing from a couch pillow or his tie.

This is a great gag shown to me by my friend Peter Studebaker. Pete is an amazing magician and never fails to make me laugh. Simply buy a bag of the spider-web stuff sold online or in retail stores around Halloween time. Pull off a small clump of it and place it in your pocket the next time you go over to a friend's house.

Once at your friend's place secretly retain the ball of synthetic spider web in your left hand as you plop down on their couch. At some point when there is a lull in the conversation, or better yet, when they are re-entering the room (i.e. returning from the bathroom) let them catch you in mid-act of this gag. Their reaction should be hilarious!

To execute the gag simply place your left hand on top of a throw pillow or couch cushion. Your right hand should stretch the webbing out as far as possible and continue doing so while your left hand holds the bulk of it in place. Once you've noticed that they've seen you removing the stuffing from their pillow or cushion quickly poke it all back into your left hand that is pressed against the fabric (Fig. 1). Act as if you've been busted. A typical reaction is "What the h...?" Sometimes they will ask to examine the pillow but there is nothing to find. To complete the illusion simply palm off the ball of webbing.

Another use for this gag is to remove the stuffing from your tie or someone else's tie. Secretly retain a clump of web in your hand and place it behind the bottom of the tie. The other hand should pull out the web or stuffing. This time however, to better create the illusion, push up on the bottom of the

tie towards the neckline and it will appear to accordion fold up (Fig. 2). Once again stuff the webbing back into the other hand, palm it off, and press the tie flat with both hands.

Choose the appropriate person and moment to pull this gag or they might just kill you. You've been warned. *Speaking of dying, obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.*

Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters & Bewitchery: Volume Three by Diamond Jim Tyler is due out June of 2013.

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.diamond-jim.com/originals for \$19.95.



The Prez's Corner – Are You A Closer?



I spent much of 2011 working onboard a cruise ship and I had the opportunity to meet many amazing, talented entertainers. One of the comedians that was a regular on the ship that I was working on is named Steve Zimmerman. Steve was the closer on the last day of the cruise and had an excellent show. He has a very big personality, is very animated and knows exactly what to say and what to do in order to get huge responses. The audiences love him.

I watched Steve perform his act over and over again. The more I watched him, the more I realized that he structured his show to be the closer. You see Steve wants to be the last person that the audience experiences before they get off the ship. He knows that if he makes a big impression, he will get

excellent guest feedback, which is incredibly important to an entertainer on a ship.

One of Steve's comedy bits is when he gets several men up from the audience and gets them involved with a Motown song. This routine is such a hit for him and gets such big reactions that he purposely places it towards the end of his show. It's a real winner. It gets several people from the audience up on stage, it has strong comedy moments, and Steve ends up looking like the hero by getting huge rounds of applause for the guys participating onstage. By the time this routine is over, everyone in that room loves Steve. And they're ready to give him major applause, thanking him for a job well done.

So, here's my question. Are you a closer? I think this idea can apply to pretty much anything. It doesn't have to just be about entertainment. Certainly, if you are an entertainer and you are reading these words then this question applies to you.

But I think it applies to lots of things. Are you structuring the way you do business, to be the hero of the day? Are you finding ways to champion others in your relationships? Are you the best you can be, every day? You can be a closer. You can make an impact on others the way that Steve makes an impact on his audiences. And the best news is you can do it today! Until next time...

Make An Impact!

Some Recent Photos...

