



### 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

## Jeff Bjorklund In Concert at November Meeting!



**Jason:** How did you get started in magic?

**Jeff:** I went to a magic show when I was in high school. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and found out that it was sponsored by a magic shop just down the street from my house. I ended up hanging out there days on end. Eventually they offered to let me work there. I'm not sure I made a dime working there, I spent every penny I earned in that shop...

**Jason:** How long have you been doing magic?

**Jeff:** On and off since I was 17. Taking breaks for pursuing life's other hobbies.

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

**Jeff:** I'm not sure I have a favorite trick exactly, I've been lucky enough to be literally saturated in magic during certain parts of my life, so I've forgotten more than I can remember. But I'll always remember an effect shown to me by my old friend Bill Goodwin. It was a version of Roy Walton's "Collectors" that just blew my mind.

It was your basic "point to and up-jog three cards" beginning, but the reveal was him holding the deck, with the up-jogged cards still sticking out of it in his left hand,

and four face up kings in his right hand. He pushed the cards flush with his left hand and spread the kings with his right, and the selected cards were INSTANTLY in between the kings.

It killed me when I saw it, and I have always aspired to be able to perform it. But, if any of you are familiar with Bill's card work, you would realize that I would probably have to break fingers to perform that damn trick.

**Jason:** You were the manager of It's Magic for years. Do you have any favorite stories or things that happened there?

**Jeff:** I had a lot of fun working at It's Magic. Mark was incredible to work with, and has a love for magic rarely found these days. It's not easy to come up with just one or two to share here.

Anyone that visited the shop knew how much fun it was to just hang out there. It was the "Cheers" of the magic community in Nashville. It was rare that we had an upset customer or an issue with anyone.

But one day we had a guy in that was just being a tool. Complaining about the prices, lack of selection, and just about anything he could think of. He also had a snobby attitude that just rubbed me the wrong way.

After browsing around the shop for over an hour, he was getting on my nerves, and I could tell that he was bothering the few other customers in the shop.

This guy decided that he needed to show me one of his favorite card tricks. He started to show me a self working card trick that we had been performing in the shop for quite a while. It was a simple trick that used the top two cards off the deck to make a prediction about a selected card. We used it to help sell the self working card tricks books. There weren't any moves to get the trick right. All you have to do is deal the cards twice and it just worked.

Well I just happened to be working on my second deal, and my pass. It got to the point in the trick when he asked me to deal the cards into two piles, and one of the other customers (a NMC member who shall remain unnamed) "suggested" I "enhance" the trick with a few extra sleights. :)

The guy was a little surprised that it didn't work. I mean, the trick is SELF WORKING. The handful of magicians behind him almost burst out in laughter. He scratched his head, and suggested we try it again. The second time didn't work out any better for him, and at this point, he just can't

-continued on page 7

## Bargatze's Musings – Success?



*“Feel free anytime to ask any questions to others in the club if you have a desire to take your magic to the next level.”*

When you hear about other people's success, how does it make you feel?

I have had magicians ask me about a show I've done or about a new trick only to have an excuse to tell me about their latest show or the new trick they have.

If I'm honest, I have to say there were times in my life when someone won a contest, or got a gig that I would have really liked to have had, and I felt bad. I realized that most of the time my disappointment came down to how much I really wanted it.

You can't win a contest that you don't enter. If you wait until two weeks out to start putting thought into what you want to perform and you know that the guy that wins has been working on his or her act for months or years you have to ask, "Do I really want it?" One day I realized that some people just don't.

Those are the people who do magic for the love of it. And what can be wrong with that? Often I have looked at people and thought, "Why are you not putting a show together? Why are you not doing shows?" I've realized that nothing is wrong with just loving magic and performing whenever you get the chance.

Nashville is not like other clubs that I have attended across the U.S. First we have a good ratio of real working pro's that attend the club. Believe me when I tell you that is not the norm. I really believe that the guys

that are the real workers are the very guys that are pulling for others to have the success that is possible for them.

Just in the last 6 months one of our members, Gary Flegal, has been hired to do some really big trade show work for big time clients and big time money. Good for him! He has had it in him the whole time; he just needed for that door to open.

I know that Gary contacted several other professionals to talk about the business end of traveling and I believe he found that everyone was willing to help with his questions. I know all were proud for him.

Feel free anytime to ask any questions to others in the club if you have a desire to take your magic to the next level, whatever that next level is for you. For some it might be just getting up and performing for the club in front of magicians. Others it might be starting a birthday party show. It might be

doing TV.

I know that Jason Michaels has pointed me in the right direction many times on website and picture ideas.

One last thing, it's nice to talk about your shows, but never to brag. It's just not right. Don't be a braggart.

By the way, here is a picture of me with Jimmy Fallon. Yep, we are friends, and yes, I was on his show...well, actually...my son was on his show and they put up a large picture of Nate's CD which has a picture of me as YOYO the clown.

Remember, don't be a braggart! ☺

On a serious note, my son Nate has been on tour with Fallon doing the Clean Cut tour and I went to Atlanta to see my son, and happened to meet the guy who has helped my son take his career to the next level. It just goes to show you that we all need help. Nate has signed a TV deal with NBC for 22 episodes.



## Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

### Nashville Magic Club

Come and see Jeff Bjorklund In Concert at our November Meeting – November 21, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Andrew Price Methodist Church at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE – Because of Thanksgiving, the November meeting has been moved to the third Thursday of this month, November 21<sup>st</sup>. There will not be a meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Day.**

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.



## November's Meeting's Theme is...Holi-Daze!

Feasts and festival abound in the last weeks of the year, from Thanksgiving Day to Hanukkah's 8 nights, to 4 Sundays of Advent welcoming in the 12 Days of Christmas, and a week of Kwanzaa to round out the year. Candles are part of all these celebrations, so candle tricks would be especially appropriate, but any holiday tricks we dust off now, will serve us through the parties yet to come. Go elves!

## 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



The Winter Carnival of Magic is coming together nicely! This will be our 40<sup>th</sup>, and we hope many of our neighbors from Ring 37 will be able to attend. We are bringing in – and bringing back – some excellent talent to make this one special.

Our first year of the WCM, 1975, we had Whit Hayden; although he spells his name a bit differently now, we are bringing Pop back. In 1976 and 1977 we had Brian Gillis and Paul Gertner, and they are also coming back. We also have Dana Daniels doing his “No Show” and Jade will be our closer on Saturday night. And it wouldn’t be a celebration without inviting your own Stephen Bargatze along with the hysterical magic of Levent.

And I’m still adding the talent. I was in Vegas a week ago, and while I was in Mac King’s afternoon show I met close-up magician Suzanne the Magician, who had just finished a week at the Magic Castle. Suzanne is just starting to do some conventions, so I think her act will be new to many of us. Pulling the talent together for a convention like this is a lot of work, but it’s like a fun jigsaw puzzle that hopefully just “fits” to make a great convention. March 6, 7 and 8 – see you there!

And, yes, I was back in Vegas just two months after being there for Magic LIVE. I really enjoy that town (although I must warn you not to go to the McDonald’s on Sahara after midnight and order the Chicken McNuggets – they were awful!).

I kept my contributions at the gaming tables to a minimum, and instead enjoyed several shows (which I couldn’t see when I was at the convention) and also the “Neon Museum.”

I got to see magic shows by Mac King, David Copperfield, and Melinda.

Mac King should be the example for ALL magicians as he keeps every show fresh and fun...like it is his first time to perform. I’ve seen him 20-30 times over the past 25 years, and I laugh at all the jokes like I’ve never heard him before – I can’t help it!

David Copperfield also was having fun on stage. Many of us have said that David had lost his charm and energy on stage – well he had a sold-out late show at the MGM, and his energy was UP and his show was a fast-paced volunteer-filled show that fooled me multiple times. I highly recommend that you see him the next time you have the chance. He’s the reason many of us are doing magic – he made magic cool – and he is still the “king” as far as I could tell.

Melinda “The First Lady of Magic” was a charming part of “V – The Ultimate Variety Show” at Planet Hollywood. After a 10-year hiatus raising her two children, this sweet and beautiful lady did a great spot in this adrenaline-fueled show that included some of the best variety acts I’ve seen.

But ultimately, the most magical show that I saw was the one that did not have a magician. We went to see “Ka” at the MGM; this was my second Cirque du Soleil show I’ve ever seen (Bargatze and I went to another many years ago – you’ll have to ask him which one it was that had him dumbfounded and speechless), and I was stunned from the moment we entered the Ka Theater.

The “magic” was in the production and morphing stage. If there was a way to capture this feeling and put it in a bottle, I think it could cure disease! I’ve been in lots of theaters and seen lots of shows, but this one had my mouth ajar from the beginning to the end. It almost defies explanation – it is the most amazing and magical experience I have ever had in a theater.

## BAMBOOZLERS – GAME OF 31

By Diamond Jim Tyler

**BET:** This is a variation of Nim that uses six pieces of paper numbered one through six. Explain that you will take turns with someone by pointing to the numbers and keep a tally of the points. The first one to hit 31 wins. No one is allowed to point to the same number that has just been chosen. Also, similar to blackjack, you cannot go over 31.

**SECRET:** If you have any knowledge of Nim, then you know there is a special sequence to abide by. If you know the special numbers involved then you will always win. The key numbers for the game of 31 are (3, 10, 17 and 24). Once you hit one of these magic numbers you are home free.

If your opponent goes first and chooses a number then simply pick a number that adds up to one of the special sequence numbers. For example if they point to the number 4, then you'll want to point to the number 6 so you'll hit one of the sequence numbers (10). After that, once they've chosen another number, you should pick the number, that when added to theirs equals seven. For example, if they point to 5 then you would choose the 2 because it adds up to the third number in the sequence (17). Keep doing this and you will ultimately win.

If they want you to go first then simply choose the number 3 to begin and you will have already won! Play out the game by making your total selections equal seven and you'll always triumph.

If you don't have a piece of paper handy, then think on your feet and use sugar packets, coasters,

napkins or business cards. If there is a deck of cards nearby then you could use the cards numbered ace through six. Better yet, fork over three one-dollar bills and have your friend do the same and write the numbers on the back of the bills. Suggest that whoever hits 31 first keeps all the money.

If they are foolish enough to take your bet, say something comforting like, *"I don't know what is going on in your head. It's like there are two monkeys inside there and only one banana."*

**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 – What Story Are You Telling?

For years I've watched magicians perform shows to varying degrees of success. I've seen some of the best in the world share their talents in extraordinary ways and I've seen performers miss the mark by a mile. I saw a show about a year ago that really made me think.

The show had some excellent entertainers lined up. And they did a fine job. But I walked away wanting more. I felt as though the performances were missing something. And they were. They were missing the story. Let me be clear...this show had several very well-known magicians performing some of their best material. So, why did I walk away so uninspired? In fact, why do some movies or Broadway musicals just not quite catch on? Why do so many events like annual awards ceremonies, corporate sales meetings, and gala dinners fail to inspire? They aren't telling the right story.

There's a reason that movies are one of America's favorite pastimes. We love to hear, see, and experience a well-crafted story. We

are more than happy to sit still in a dark theatre and watch a make-believe adventure, romance, or drama. And what do the best movies accomplish? They accomplish telling a unique story that we, in some way, identify with.

When we were children, we loved telling scary stories around the campfire. We love to get our imaginations involved. Stories allow us to experience something without having to live through the experience ourselves. They allow us to be voyeurs into someone else's world. We can learn that we're all really going through the same life experiences and that we want the same things, we just have to learn through our own adventures.

So why aren't more people telling stories? Why aren't more magicians, more event planners, more entertainers, more speakers, and more corporate trainers keeping us engaged through stories? Telling stories is one of the most effective ways to convey information. Stories draw us in, but don't single us out.

If you plan events, if you entertain people, if you have a message to share, if you are in charge of creating an experience...start telling stories. Look at the big

picture. See how all the pieces fit together. Draw people in by sharing a story with situational and emotional relevance. If you tell a congruent story that your guests identify with, you will create an experience that is truly unforgettable!



## Jeff Bjorklund Interviewed, continued

believe what's going on. The rest of the customers are doubled over behind him. When he finally left, the store just erupted.

I would think that most magicians never get an opportunity to "use their powers for evil." Especially since, at least for me, it requires someone that is just REALLY asking for it. I've got to wonder though if that guy ever figured out what happened that day.

**Jason:** You were integral in getting the both the SAM and the SYM (youth organization) started. What did you enjoy most about working with the kids who were interested in magic?

**Jeff:** The most rewarding thing about working with the kids in that club was, well, everything. Watching the kids progress through the phases of learning magic was so incredibly rewarding. We had so much fun exploring all avenues of magic. It was always a surprise to see what they would come in with next.

**Jason:** I know that you are a stickler for making sure you have a trick down cold before you show it to someone. What is your creative process like when it comes to learning, creating, and working on material?

**Jeff:** I don't think my process differs much from the average magician. I prefer to get material from books or DVDs, I never picked up on the whole "YouTube University" thing. I can usually tell pretty quickly if a routine fits my style. Routines that speak out to me tend to begin creating a presentation as I'm watching or reading them. I tend to like things that entertain me, in one way or another, as well as the audience.

Practice consists of standing in front of a mirror, and getting the angles down on any particularly difficult or possibly exposed sleights (if you're familiar with my stuff, you'll know that this can be quite a handful). I make sure to get the moves angle-proof

before I ever start "learning" them. One thing that will kill you is if you memorize how to do something wrong.

Then the process of muscle memorization begins. Once I know how a move "feels" when performing it correctly in front of a mirror, I repeat the moves over and over alternating between my eyes open, then closed. I believe that once your muscles have memorized the moves, you will rarely perform them wrong, and you will always know how they look to an audience.

Over time, the presentations will change due to the way audiences react to certain things, and I'm always open to suggestions from other magicians. I believe the more flexible you are with adapting to change, the better a magician you will be.

**Jason:** You dropped out of the magic scene for a little while after the magic shop closed. We're glad that you are back. What type of magic excites you nowadays?

**Jeff:** Yeah, I think every magician should take a break from their craft every once in a while. It kind of helps put our roles into perspective.

Lately, I've been enjoying working with different aspects of the performance. I was recently asked to help routine an effect for my great friend Dr. Gary Flegal. Well, things got completely out of control, and I ended up more in a director's role for the overall show....helping with the logistics of prop management, setting the stage, working with Gary on the lighting and music cues, promotion, and back of the show sales. Not only was I honored just to be asked to do this, I had an absolute blast with it.

One of the highlights of this process were the brainstorming sessions we had for routining one of his effects. I absolutely love the routining process. I tend to gravitate towards magic that makes sense. Taking the regular and mundane, and injecting a healthy dose of mind warping magic into it. It's even

more fun if the effect has some sort of practical application to it. Which may explain why I've enjoyed working with so many gambling routines.

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

**Jeff:** I have been working on something that I think will be pretty cool. It's a techie trick, which I've never really been in to, but this one fits my personality enough for me to use it. I'm still in the design phase of it, so I won't have it to show off at the next meeting, but I anticipate the club will be able to see it soon enough.

**Jason:** Is there anything else you'd like to share with the members of the club?

**Jeff:** Don't be afraid to completely fail in public.

Over the years I've had many mentors. I've always asked them how to deal with the anxiety I face (and there's plenty) when I perform in front of laymen. And it pretty much boils down to not being afraid when, not if, when you completely screw something up in front of a crowd. Perfect practice will get you far. But nothing prepares you for screwing up, until you actually do it.

Perform, perform, perform.

Practicing on your own is necessary, but your routines will be exponentially better when you get feedback from real people. I would advise against performing for family, if you can avoid it. They won't provide the same feedback that a crowd of complete strangers will. And I don't mean actual feedback, like they'll say if they like something. I'm referring to the reactions you get, the laughter, the random incredible one-liner from the audience. These only come from performing over and over and over.

Above all, have fun and be yourself.

Even if "yourself" is a character or persona you're taking on to perform, people enjoy seeing magic because it's being performed by YOU. Optical illusions don't need a performer (which is probably why that damned head shrinker thing is so popular). They are there to see you. They are being entertained by you. You are the magic. Always remember that.