

Sept. 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

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We had a great turnout for the August meeting. After a busy summer, it appears as though folks are ready to show their newest magic with us and get ready for the fall season.

Kevin King shared a wonderfully informative Kidz Korner. Not only did he entertain everyone,

but he also gave some great ideas for incorporating some classic magic tricks into your show.

Our In Concert this past month was actually several "mini-concerts" which were great fun for everyone. Many thanks to David, Mike

(Pyle), Jacob, and Greg.

We also thoroughly enjoyed visiting with our friends from Murfreesboro, who travelled up I-24 to join us. Alan Fisher gave an especially inspired performance. Enjoy the photos from August above!

Bargatze's Musings – New Magic



“My challenge to you is...bring it on! We would love to see your best 20 seconds. No patter, no routine, just pure magic.”

A couple of weeks ago, I was at Magic Live with Jason Michaels and Steve Varro of Nashville. We saw lots of new magic. Just what is new magic, you ask?

Josh Jay said it best. First, he announced that he would no longer be writing “Talk about Tricks” for Magic Magazine. Josh has put in twelve years at that post and has done a great job. Most of us in our club can remember Josh at Winter Carnival as a kid performing better sleight of hand than we do now.

Speaking of Josh, one of the reasons he is leaving is that he and his business partner Andi Gladwin have taken over “Magi-Fest”, in Columbus, Ohio. This year, (2014), promises to be one of the best conventions in the US. Juan Tamariz will be the special guest along with Michael Weber. These are, without a doubt, two of the best magicians on the planet. If you have never seen either of these guys live you need to do your best to see them now. The truth of the matter is

this...Juan just doesn't come to America very often. The dates are Jan. 30 thru Feb 1. Check out the web site www.magifest.org.

So back to my initial point. What Josh has noticed in the last 5 years is that the tricks are getting shorter and more of a move or eye candy type of magic. I am not saying that this is bad. With Dick Staub no longer with us, I notice that I am the old guy in our club. I remember when a trick had three phases and a plot and a great story to it. Now tricks are made for YouTube and are 30 seconds or less. People just do not often take the time to watch like they used to do. If nothing exciting is happening then they move on. There is even a new thing on the net where you only get 6 seconds to say or do what you want.

Why would I even bring this up? Well, there are guys in our club who tell me that they have nothing to show. Listen, I am the guy at our club

meetings who has to make the list of the performers. I know that some of the guys who say they don't have anything to show are working on things. Maybe they don't have patter and just have a move or a sleight, but that doesn't mean that they don't have anything to offer our club. If our club has made people feel that they don't have anything to show unless it is a full 5 minute routine, then I am sorry. If we want to grow, then we should want to get the type of performers that are out there doing their 20 seconds routines. And I want to be the guy who is sitting there watching it.

My challenge is bring it on! We would love to see your 20 seconds. No patter, no routine, just magic.



Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

Nashville Magic Club, September Meeting – September 26, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Andrew Price Methodist Church at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

Conjuring Arts Research Center, Summer Reading Program - At

Conjuring Arts we believe that some of the greatest secrets of magic can only be discovered by reading great books. Every week until the end of the summer we will be giving away a FREE! PDF download of a great magic book. The book will be available for download for absolutely free from the beginning until the end of the week at which time a different free book will be given in its place. Please enjoy reading these classics of magic and spread the word

about our FREE Summer Reading Program with your friends! We promise that if you download each book each week you will have the beginnings of a Great magic library. www.conjuringarts.org

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.



September's Meeting's Theme is...Back to School

Sharpen your pencils, crack the books, its back to teachers' dirty looks. Magic with school supplies (they are cheap now!), pseudo-educational gambits, mathe-magic, book tests...

Do tricks you could do in a school with objects that (look like) you could have found them in a school. Take notes. There'll be a quiz!

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



Just over 1,500 magicians from all over the world converged on Las Vegas two weeks ago for another installment of Stan Allen's "Magic Live." Once again, they proved why there is no need to announce the talent ahead of time...it has always been stellar. And there is always something incredible; this year we witnessed the final performance of The Great Tomsoni including recognition by Lance Burton and Penn and Teller. Joshua Jay also announced that he is stepping down from his "Talk about Tricks" column after 12 years (145 columns and 875 tricks!).

But a highlight for me was the opening evening show called "Documentary Live" which was a compendium of the talented magicians who came out of the Long Beach Mystics in the 60s, 70s and into the 80s. The show included the hosts Stan Allen and Mike Caveney along with the unique acts of Dana Daniels, Les Arnold and Dazzle, David Deeble, James Hamilton, Kevin James, Mark Kalin and Jinger Leigh, Armando Lucero, Randy Pryor, Victor and Diamond, and Michael Weber – wow! It was a great show, but what got me was how these DIVERSE acts all came out of the same magic club.

Typically I am concerned that Rings – or any magic club – get accustomed to the same style of magic, and that is what is fostered on new members and encouraged for success. When I grew up in Cincinnati in the "Cincinnati Counts of Conjuring", all the youth were mentored by

Bill Brewwe who hosted the meetings at his magic shop one Sunday afternoon per month. He encouraged us teens to get into stage contests with silks, to produce a stack of snifters, and to fill the stage full of feather flowers. I did not drink the Kool-Aid, and I didn't develop one of "those" contest acts. So I am in absolute awe of the Long Beach Mystics that were able to develop the diverse acts that I saw on that show a couple weeks ago.

I guess the thought I leave this column with – although it is from the WEST, and not the East – is that we should use the Long Beach Mystics as the measure of success in EVERY club. Embrace diversity. Encourage uniqueness. Get our youth members creating stage acts that they can compete with (the Mystics went to the PCAM to compete). Develop strong commercial acts. And most importantly, create life-long bonds in magic. How?

Well, I called Stan Allen and asked him that exact question. While the Mystics ran without adult supervision, they did have fantastic mentors available who were always available for help, as well as advice. The Mystics also had a drive to create new magic because this group of youth put on their own public show called "It's Amazing!" once a year, and if someone wanted to be on it they could not simply do standard tricks like Hippiity-Hop Rabbits or a Die Box. I think this story and the history of the Long Beach Mystics is "Amazing" and it is not out of the grasp of any club like yours.

BAMBOOZLERS – NEVER-ENDING THREAD

By Diamond Jim Tyler

GAG: Someone notices a loose thread on your jacket and begins to remove it. To their horror they learn that it's a never-ending thread which shocks them into a fit of laughter.

SECRET: If wearing a dark jacket, then you'll want to use a light colored thread and vice-versa. Place the end of a spool of thread through the eye of a needle. Pull about five inches of the thread through the eye. From inside your coat, use the needle to push the thread through your jacket at the point that is halfway between the collar and the shoulder on either side of the jacket.

Push the needle all the way through the material. Put away the needle and leave the thread hanging from the back of your jacket. Drop the spool of thread into the inside jacket pocket that corresponds with the side you pushed the thread through. Carefully put on your jacket and run your arm behind the thread when slipping it into the sleeve of your jacket. You don't want your arm between the thread and your pocket. The thread inside your jacket should rest on the front part of your shoulder nearest your chest.

Finish putting on your jacket. Pull the thread back into your jacket so that only a two-inch piece emerges from your coat. Press it down flat and you are ready for the fun.

The nice person that offers to remove it for you will be in for a big surprise. Don't laugh, but act aggravated once they've started it. As they continue pulling the thread secretly retain a few loose buttons in your hand and drop them on the floor as you exclaim, "Wonderful!" Say something consoling like, *"Is it your sole purpose in life to serve as a warning for others?"*

Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betches, Brain Bugglers, 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.

BAMBOOZLERS

By Diamond Jim Tyler



The Prez's Corner – Controlling Your Environment



As a performer who received much of my initial training in a theatrical setting, I have always placed a high importance on creating a mood. It's one of my goals to create a mood from the moment someone walks into a theatre to see one of my shows until they leave. I think that proper pre-show music as well as proper lighting can build anticipation and get your audience excited about what is to come.

Some of my favorite moments when I attend shows are when I file into the theatre and feel the ambience. I believe that getting an audience into the right mindset to enjoy the upcoming show is just tremendously important.

A few years ago I performed for a very high-end corporate function and was immediately reminded why it is so important to control all elements of a production, especially the environment.

This specific event was lavish. It was in a beautiful hall that had been exquisitely decorated with

the finest linens, flowers, stage settings, etc. Everything had been thought of and prepared perfectly.

I had been engaged to create an original, themed five minute sequence of magic that would add to the atmosphere. It really wasn't a situation where I had very much control. I was a guest in someone else's home, so to speak. I was supposed to come in, do my act, and that was that. Unfortunately I didn't get to call the shots.

So, I arrived, set everything up, and waited until I was on. When I got my cue to take the stage, I took my place and executed my act. Everything went flawlessly. Unfortunately, nobody cared. Only a tiny portion of the five hundred guests paid any attention to what I was doing. It was painful.

Please understand this; I try very hard to be a dynamic performer who commands the stage. I have worked numerous events. I have had great success entertaining groups exactly like this one. This was an anomaly. But it's the type of thing that drives me crazy and I just had to figure out what happened so it couldn't happen again.

I've thought a lot about what happened and I have a few ideas on why it went so poorly. There were two major issues here. The first one was that I took the stage at the exact same time that the food was served. That one is really my fault. I shouldn't have agreed to start the show when there was such a massive distraction. Honestly, I

know better. I've known not to do that forever. Why I let it happen this one time, I'll never know. Well, actually I do know, but I'm not going to lay the blame on other people. I'll take the blame here. Chalk one more up to experience and things that I won't let happen again.

However, in my opinion, the main problem here was that the environment was not controlled. If the environment had been properly focused on what was going on, this performance could have been a major hit. I really believe that it was as simple as dimming the lights. That's it. If the lights in the main hall had been dimmed down to about 25% and the lights on the stage had been brought up to full intensity it would have been obvious that the program was beginning and everyone would have quieted down and started watching the program while they ate. You know, this one simple thing would have helped me, but it also would have helped the program chairs who went on immediately after me and were completely ignored for the first few minutes of their speeches as well.

I really believe that it is as simple as that. If you work in corporate settings, please take a lesson from this. If you want to focus people's attention on a show or a speaker, you must control the environment and give your program or speaker every chance to succeed.

Magic Valley Magic

Magic Valley Ranch, Clanton, AL

You are invited to attend and take part.

FREE Magicians' Flea Market, Shows, Open Mic, Lectures, etc.

Come Buy, Sell, & Trade Your Magic

Friday & Saturday Night Shows
are in the Indoor Theater

October 4 & 5, 2013



Unicorns Are Real At Magic Valley Ranch



Magic Valley Ranch
395 County Road 478
Clanton, AL 35046

<http://magicvalleymagic.com/>

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=364591&forum=31&426&start=420#5>

Bob Sanders (205) 755-6882
Bob@MagicBySander.com

Friday October 4th

1 PM - Registration and Check in
SURPRISES!

Access to facilities for setup of tables, tents, etc. for Flea Market
Chance to visit and get familiar with facilities

2:00 PM – Lecture

7 PM - **Friday Night Stage Show** –
(Bunny Heart Theater)

--- After Show Reception ---

Saturday October 5th

8:00 AM Registration and Flea Market
Opens
Setup for Vendors in Flea Market (arena)
SURPRISES!

8:30 AM Open Mic - Stage Magic
(Bunny Heart Theater)

10:00 AM - Lecture

11:30 AM - Lecture/Exhibit

1:00 PM To be announced

2:00 PM - Lecture

4:00 PM Close Up Show

5:00 PM Open Mic - Close Up Magic

7:30 PM - **Saturday Night Stage Show** –
(Bunny Heart Theater)

Flea Market closes at 6:30 PM