

March 2014

Nashville Magic Club, IBM Ring 37 NEWSLETTER



Swap and Sell Draws Big Crowd!

Your 2014 Officers

- Jason Michaels, President
- Dr. Gary Flegal, Vice President
- Stephen Bargatze, Sergeant at Arms
- Kevin King, Treasurer
- Jason Moseley, Secretary
- Jeff Bjorklund, Webmaster

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In February we had our annual Swap and Sell. The meeting began with announcements which were followed by a brief update on our website by Jeff Bjorklund. After all the business was complete we enjoyed demonstrations of some of the items that were being sold.

One of the highlights of the night was Kevin King

demonstrating Becker's Blanket, which was an extremely limited item released by mentalist Larry Becker several years ago. As of the writing of this article the item is still for sale. Before buying it you might want to ask Bargatze what he thinks of it.

Throughout the night

member's paid their dues and were celebrated by the "ringing of the bell", a brand new tradition of the Nashville Magic Club.

Several other highlights of the night included seeing old friends and having Bart and Roger pay their dues and officially join us. -JM

Bargatze's Musings – Magic and the Internet



“I have trouble shaking hands with someone who has been driving because the number one pastime while driving alone is picking one’s nose.”

Magic and the internet...is it good or bad? Well, just look how good the internet has been to us. Thanks to the internet and the educational e-mails I get all the time I am totally screwed up and have little chance of recovery.

I can no longer open a bathroom door without using a paper towel in any public toilet. Nor can I let the waitress put lemon slices in my ice water without the worry of bacteria on the lemon peel. I can't sit down on a hotel bedspread because I can only imagine what has happened on it since it was last washed. I have trouble shaking hands with someone who has been driving because the number one pastime while driving alone is picking one's nose. I must send my special thanks to someone for the email about rat poo in the glue on envelopes because I now have to use a wet sponge with every envelope that needs sealing. Also I have to scrub the top of every can I open for the same reason.

I would never have a drink in a bar because I fear I'll wake up in a bathtub full of ice with my kidneys gone. I can't eat KFC because their chickens are actually horrible mutant freaks with no eyes, feet or feathers. Thanks to the internet I've learned that my prayers only get answered if I forward an email to seven of my friends and make a wish within five minutes. And last but not least, I can no longer use anyone's toilet except my own because a big black snake could be lurking under the seat and cause me instant death when it bites my butt.

What does all of this have to do with magic? We need to stop believing everything we see on the net. I can't tell you how many emails I get from other magicians asking me how someone did a trick and how such a thing could be possible. The truth is that most of those tricks aren't really possible. The too

good to be true magic tricks on the internet are too good to be true most of the time. When you see a trick on your computer that is filmed from only one angle and it looks great then you need to realize that your audience will have to be sitting at that same exact angle in order to see what you just saw on your screen.

Before you buy something please try to find someone who has seen it live or, better yet, has purchased the trick and can tell you both the good and the bad. Magic chat rooms are a perfect place for input, but again be aware that the person who put the trick on the market will have many of his friends write good feedback to promote sales.

One last thing, keep your toothbrush in the living room because I was told by email that the water splashes over 6 ft. out of your toilet.

Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

Nashville Magic Club, March Meeting
– March 27th, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Andrew Price Methodist Church at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

Winter Carnival of Magic, March 6-8, 2014

The area's premier magic convention is only a few days away. Performers announced so far include Pop Haydn, Paul Gertner, Dana Daniels, Levent, and our very own Jason Michaels and Stephen Bargatze.

For more information check out - www.wintercarnivalofmagic.com

Joshua Jay Lecture, April 1, 2014
Joshua Jay is going on tour! He has been an extremely busy guy, launching

a critically acclaimed one-man show, appearing on TV, writing books, and winning the SAM Close-up Magician of the Year.

This is a fantastic and RARE opportunity to see one of magic's brightest stars in person, and spend time learning the magic that has earned him a sterling reputation and international acclaim. He is, truly, one of THE best lecturers in the business.

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.



March's Meeting's Theme is...Lighter than Air

This is the month that boasts all of the windiness – “In like a Lion...” etc. With all of that wind blowing around something should be floating, drifting, hovering, and soaring – you know, some kind of movement. Dust off your Zombie, let your cards rise, levitate your assistant (or yourself), and let's all have a moving experience this month.

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



Okay, I just finished watching the Oscars, and there is so much for us to learn as performers. There was camaraderie, laughter, and more. Ellen DeGeneres' performance as the "host" was fun, and I eagerly anticipated her every return to the stage because I had no idea what she might do next...the pizzas, the costumes, the passing of a hat, and the "selfie" that crashed Twitter were all hysterical. I thought it was interesting that a group of actors chose a variety of singers as their only form of entertainment. And what about the overwhelmingly lackluster speeches from the "winningest" artists of the group.

So what did I learn? Well, Ellen taught me I need to keep it fresh. Creativity is held in high esteem with our peers, and even award-winning actors appreciate good comedy. At our own magic conventions, the guy who does the "non-magic" (like a juggler or ventriloquist) is usually the one who gets the standing ovation...so I guess it shouldn't surprise me that actors don't want to watch other acting. But I believe the most important thing we can do is never to walk in front of a group and not know what we are going to say. To some this is scripting, but you need to watch Matthew

McConaughey's incredible three-point speech – do you think that was all scripted? It seemed so real and so heartfelt and sincere. I want to be able to do that.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention how glad I am that getting cosmetic surgery is not a prerequisite for growing old in our avocation...seeing Goldie Hawn and Kim Novak made my mouth drop open in disgust.

In all honesty, I think the thing that I was most impressed with was the fellowship and chatting BEFORE the awards show. Because of their hectic schedules, I can assume that this time spent with others "in the business" is a treat – even if all they do is exchange a few pleasantries in passing. Ironically, the actors and actresses assembled in that theater were competing against each other for the Academy's top honor; certainly they have their own opinions about who is best and who deserves this esteemed honor, but they dressed up and sat side-by-side for the evening.

...So, they came together to meet, enjoy their differences, share their love of the art, and have some fun. Learn from that, and I hope you can attend your next meeting and enjoy...evening gowns and tuxedos not required.

BAMBOOZLERS – HITCHHIKER BILL

By Diamond Jim Tyler

GAG: Persuade your audience to find the hitchhiker on the back of a one dollar bill.

Begin by asking, “Where can one find a key on a dollar bill?” This can be found on the right side of the bill in the green seal (Fig. 1). It is directly under the scales.

Follow up your question with a harder one by inquiring, “Does anyone know where the spider is on the face of a one-dollar bill?” Some will answer “Yes,” and some will say “No.” Permit the audience to search for a short while, and then show them where it is (Fig. 2). You may need a magnifying glass to show the audience.

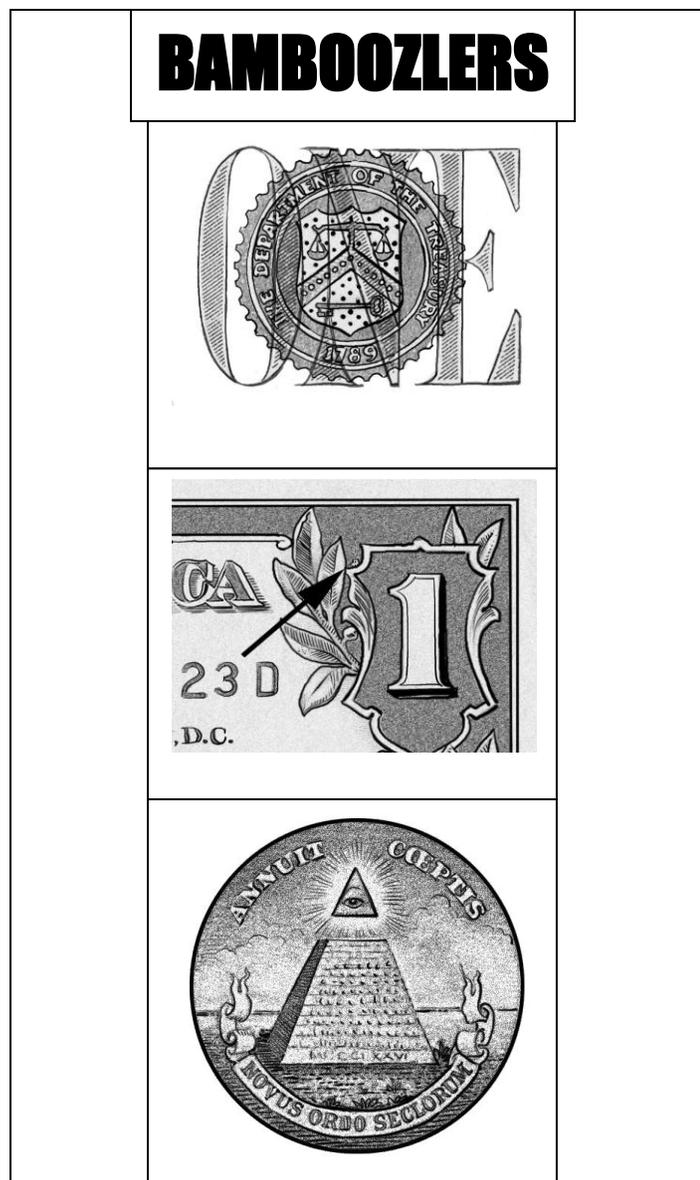
Then ask, “Does anyone know where the hitchhiker is on the back of a one-dollar bill?” See if you can find the hitchhiker. He is next to the pyramid (Fig. 3).

After everyone has looked for a good while, to no avail, offer to show where he is. Take the bill and point next to the pyramid, saying, “See. He is right here.” Bewildered, everyone will look closer. Finish by saying, “Oh! Wait a minute. Somebody must have picked him up.” Gotcha!

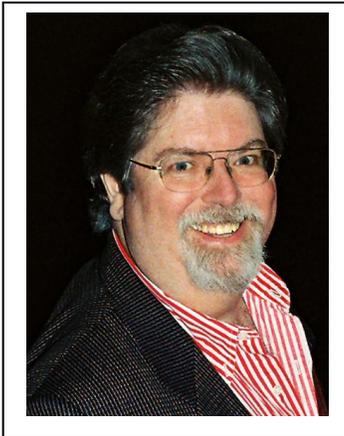
This a great gag to use on a group after they have been telling stories related to history or trivia. Pull a bamboozler or two on them that have concrete solutions first and then try the hitchhiker bit for the best results. By the way, here’s a little financial advice... “*The best way to save money is to forget who you borrowed it from.*”

Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters & Bewitchery: Volume Three by Diamond Jim Tyler is available directly from Diamond Jim Tyler’s website – <http://diamond-jim.com>

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 is sold for \$19.95.



Down in the 'Boro - by Alan Fisher



As I write this column for your March newsletter, it's mid-February and the tragic news of the passing of Aldo Colombini is just making the rounds. I'd gotten to know Aldo over the last 11 years or so and was honored to call him 'friend'. While my magic owes a lot to both Aldo & Rachael (at one point it seemed like half my act was based on stuff I'd gotten from them) it was the long visits, chats, and general silliness we'd get into before or after the event that I'll remember the most.

When they started their *Farewell Tour*, their first stop was Murfreesboro. A few of us met them for drinks before the lecture. We all ordered wine (did Aldo drink anything else) and my choice was White Zinfandel. Aldo looked at me like I'd order raw sewage. He sneered, "That's not wine. That's horse p@#\$. How dare you, sir. That s&*^ wouldn't make good mouth wash!" I just smiled and knew I had an

opening if I played it right. When the drinks arrived we raised our glasses in a toast to friendship but Aldo refused to clink mine. He just sneered again and rolled his eyes at my glass. I turned to him and said, "So Aldo . . .", then I took a sip of my wine, swished it around in my mouth, spit it on the floor, and continued "...where do you go next?" No one heard that last part as they were all howling. Rachael doubled over with laughter and Aldo completely lost it. He clapped and said, "Do that to the whole glass and you get one of everything on the table tonight for free."

About a year later when their tour brought them back this way, they stopped and did a *Second Farewell Lecture* for us (hey, how many farewell tours did Sinatra do?). I made arrangements with the hotel where we had them stay to put a welcome gift in their room. It was a gift wrapped miniature plastic bottle of White Zinfandel with a card that read 'Welcome back to Murfreesboro. Please enjoy this complimentary bottle of Tennessee mouth wash'.

Rachael unwrapped the gift and couldn't figure it out at first. Neither of them liked White Zin. Why would anyone give them that? Aldo stood on his feet and bellowed, "I remember! Open the damn card!" Once she'd read it, Rachael remembered

and they both had a good laugh. But my most cherished memories are the times I'd show Aldo a variation I created of one of his effects. He would look it over and yell, "I hate you. You take my beautiful magic and make it look like s^#* next to yours. You son-of-a-b@#\$. I hate you!" Then he gave me a big bear hug and yelled even louder "I hate you, you son-of-a-b@#\$%." And I hated you right back, old friend. With all my heart.

On a happier note, April is just around the corner and I invite you to visit 252 for our meeting on April 1st. The theme is, appropriately enough, "April Fools". So stop clowning around and bring your favorite comedy routine or sucker effect to show us how you clown around. We'll also have a mini-lecture by Steve Varro where he'll discuss "Effects That Go Both Ways" (you'll have to be there to find out).

We hope to see you in the 'boro soon. Remember, the magic red carpet is always rolled out for you at I. B. M. Ring 252!

The Kidz Korner – By Magic Wayne



When I was young, one of my favorite Bible Stories was about Joseph and his coat of many colors. I could picture how happy and proud he was when given a garment that others would admire and adore. Although he loved it for other reasons, it was the very thing that showed his brothers that he was his father's favorite son. But that's a different lesson.

The question is why was this one of my favorite stories? Well it usually meant in Sunday school we would all get a picture with heavy outlines of a coat with many square patches on it. The students were given a box of well-used and broken crayons. Then we were told to choose any colors we wanted to use to bring our own sense of fashion to the blank drawing in front of us. We chose the colors and each picture ended up being different. There was color everywhere and it was great!

Let's face it. Kids love COLOR(S). Have you ever noticed or thought why there are so many choices of coloring books, crayons, and markers available in grocery stores, drug stores, book stores, and the dentist's office? BECAUSE KIDS LOVE COLORS! So when you're putting together your kids show, try and think of a way to add color to your routines.

Perhaps you use a trick where a paper bag is needed. Let's say the disappearing coke bottle. You put the bottle into the bag and then smash the bag making it seem as though the bottle has disappeared. When you do this routine, do you use a plain brown paper bag? Or a purple, pink, or blue bag instead? Think about which one you would find more interesting as an adult?

There are so many ways you can add color to your show that the possibilities are endless. Don't limit yourself to only one color in your show. Think about it this way. You have two magicians set up their shows side by side. One has a routine that uses all blue and nothing else. The other magician uses red, pink, yellow, and purple. If the kids had the power to choose which show they wanted to watch, based on what they see in how the shows are set up, I can almost guarantee they would want the show with more colors.

Think about this in the way you dress as well. If you're a kid, which person stands out more to you? The person who wears all black? Or the person who has a little color to his or her appearance? Don't go crazy with color you'll look like a clown. (Unless that's what you want to be.) Sometimes adding too much color in your outfit will make kids think you're a clown and not a magician.

So make a list of the routines you want in your kids show. Then think of ways you can add color to as many routines as possible. Many of your props are already colored for good reason. But if you have the opportunity to add color, do it and pay attention to the results. I think you'll be very pleased.