



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76 FEBRUARY 2013 VOL. XXVII #2

Close-Up Contest

Coming up in February is our annual Close-Up Contest!

This contest is limited to 8 participants. Please do not show up on the meeting night expecting to compete if you have not previously signed up. The openings are available on a first-come basis so do not delay. Contact Sal Barajas at salomonbarajas@yahoo.com to sign up.

There is a change in the way that the contest will be scored this year. Each contestant will receive points from two sources and the combined point total from both sources will be the basis upon which 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes are awarded.

The first component of the scoring will come from a panel of judges. Each judge will score each contestant in several areas as follows:

Technical Skill/Handling	0-25 points
Showmanship/Presentation	0-25 points
Entertainment Value	0-20 points
Routining	0-20 points
Originality	0-10 points

These scores will be totaled up and the contestant will receive the average of the number of points awarded by each of the judges in the panel.

The second component of the scoring will be Members Choice. Each Ring 76 member in good standing will have a ballot upon which they can vote for the contestant that they liked the best. Each vote is worth one point.

We still have the very strict time limit of 8 minutes per performance (anything over and you will be disqualified).

As with last year, we are only requiring each contestant to perform their set 4 times. After each performance, the contestant will wait out one round (thereby having eight minutes to reset for their next performance).

As with all of our contests, there will be a cash prize for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

The contest rules and procedures can be found on the Ring 76 website at www.ring76.com/html/contest

— James Thayer

A Change to the Board

As mentioned in last month's meeting, Vice President of Entertainment, Syd Segal has stepped down from office due to conflicts with his work schedule. Salomon Barajas (former Sargent at Arms) has been appointed to fill in the position in Syd's absence. So, let's all welcome Mr. Barajas at our next meeting!

— Derek Ostovani

Classic Magic and Other Old Tricks

The theme of our January meeting was *Classic Magic*, with the stipulation of no card tricks. President Derek Ostovani called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, and several guests were introduced. These included Hector Montano, guests of Mago Ruly; Erwin Anderson, Jr., accompanied by member Laurie Gorden; and Ed Gain, guest of Richard Wira. In addition, Troy Ladmirault,

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76
EDITOR JAMES THAYER — EDITOR@RING76.COM

President's Message

We have officially survived the first month of the 2013 New Year!!! We are about half way done with our fiscal year, but still have lots of exciting events to offer in the upcoming months! Once again, great job at last month's classic Magic meeting! You all did a fine job and NO ONE did any card effects. Well. Except for the President, but in my defense, cards across is a classic premise and I had a unique take on it so I hope you all enjoyed it!



As you may know, this upcoming up month is our annual Close-up Competition! I am anticipating it being a really terrific event! And if its anything like the monthly Magic you all have been bringing to the ring, everybody is going to have great competition! So no hold bar, bring your best material!

The rules will be similar in format to last years competition with a few changes to the judging of the contest. The reason we are changing it, is to try our best to keep it as fair a competition as possible! We have struggled to bring the optimum process of judging. That being said, if there are any necessary changes after this years trial run, we will implement that in time for the Stage/ Stand-up Competition. So good luck to you all!

A sneak peak at March's meeting will be our Swap Meet. Any member is welcome to have a table to sell their items, its \$5 for a half table, \$10 for full table, and \$20 for a non-member. I just wanted to let everyone know so they can be thinking about it. We will have more details next newsletter.

And the last thing I wanted to mention is about my Dinner Parlor show at Solare. I originally stated it would be Feb. 8th, however; due to a scheduling conflict, it will be moved to the following month, stay tuned for further information!

DEREK OSTOVANI

(Continued from page 1)

who would audition for membership later in the meeting, also was present.

After a few business announcements, we dove into the world of *Classic Magic*.

Bob Meigs opened, as he often does, as his props often require tons of set up. Tonight was no exception; Bob used four tables to perform a passé-passe with lit candles and the complicated, but elegant, Owen's Croquet Ball Illusion. He performed in full Frankenstein garb. Loch David Crane followed with a demonstration and explanation of his own Birthday Divination, and the classic Professor's Nightmare. Malcolm Campbell then performed an (Un)cut and Restored Newspaper.

Greg Wausen departed a bit from classical magic with a bit of mentalism none of us had ever seen before: an any-word-in-the-book book test, with the book out of Greg's sight. Wow! Mago Ruly met the tough -act-to-follow challenge with a beautifully mimed Miser's Dream, performed to music. Don Holcomb then entertained with a true classic from the Golden Era - the wool-to-coffee Coffee Trick, right out of Professor Hoffmann's Modern Magic.

Next, Kenny Shelton performed *Gypsy String* in a story-telling format. Jeff Marcus followed with a

(Continued on page 8)

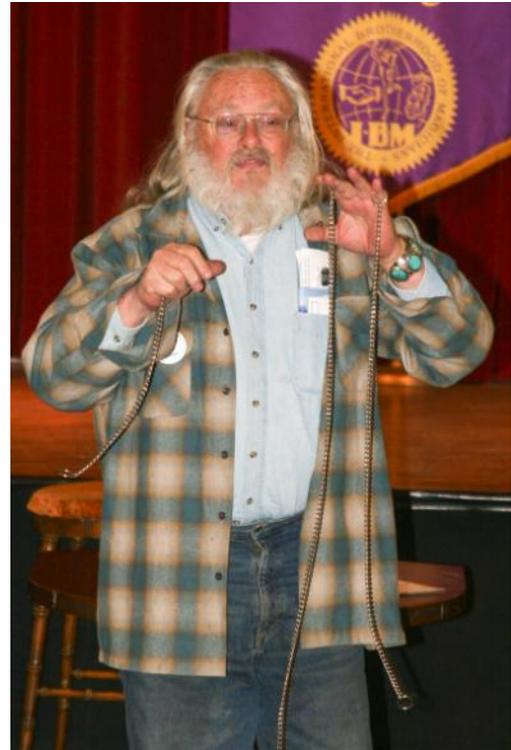


January Performers

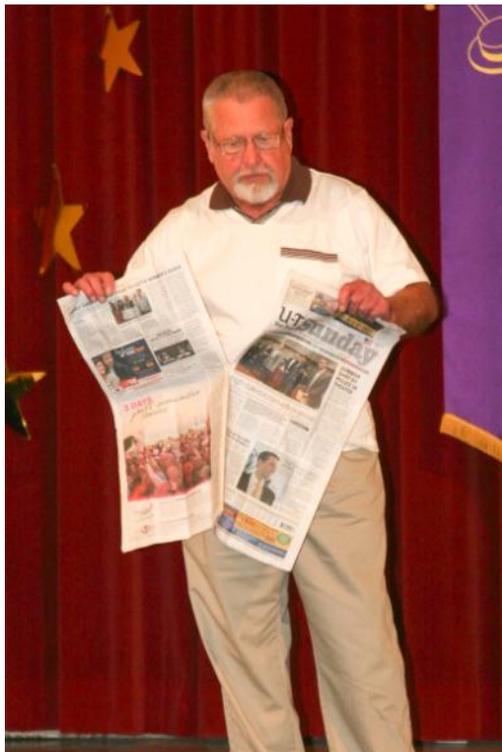
Photos from the January Meeting



Bob Meigs



Loch David Crane



Malcolm Campbell



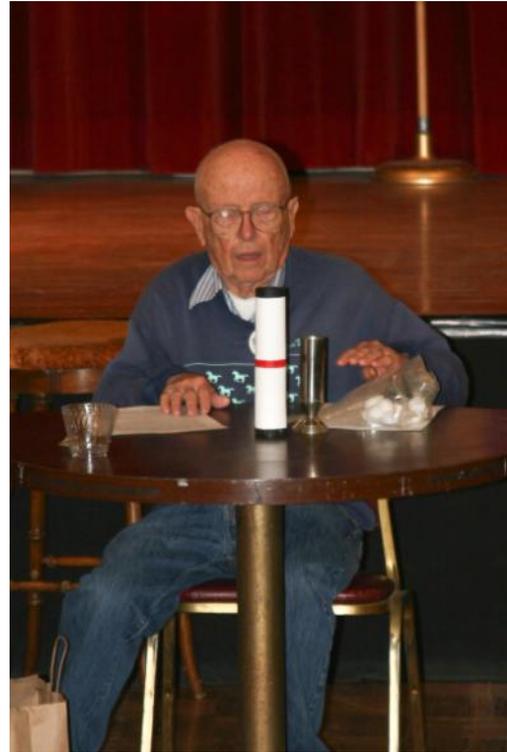
Greg Wauson



Photos from the January Meeting



Mago Ruly



Don Holcomb



Kenny Shelton



Jeff Marcus



Photos from the January Meeting



Derek Ostovani



Rich Robinson



Troy Ladmirault



Hector Montano (right)

Comedy is Often Irreverent

“The Comedy Club Show” by Dan Harlan (DVD)

*Reviewed by Joel A Moskowitz
September 25 2012*

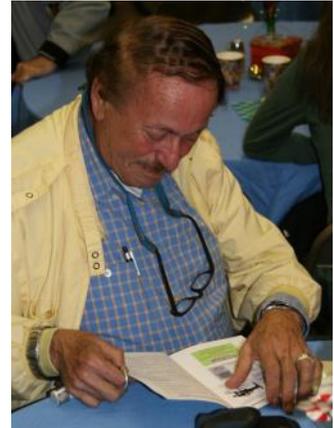
Comedy is often a tragedy. When performers are not accustomed to the comedy circuit or they fail to have a funny bone in their body, it is essential to have a personality which owns the capacity to react to audience interventions. In the venue of comedy clubs, especially with alcoholic lubrication, respect for the performers is often dissolved. Sleight of tongue is an asset for this stage. Sharp repartee is defensive to control the presentation. Examples of legendary comics playing the comedy club circuit, even if not funny, the audience laughs as though they are hypnotized. They laugh hysterically when seemingly little is funny. Blue humor is in vogue. Putting down the assistant from the audience is accepted. The traditional caveat to eschew blue humor and shun denigrating the audience assistant doesn't always apply in the venue of the comedy clubs. Dan Harlan's DVD “The Comedy Club Show” in his Pack Small Play Big is one veteran magician's talented approach.

Harlan instructs on the use of his small satchel poised on a stool which contains his tools. He employs a program (for his use) pasted in the lid of the satchel. In the opening of the DVD, he cautions that what is “comedy” may change in time (and also where it is exhibited I might add, and depending on the tastes of the audience as well).

Dan displayed many effects which are known to the average enlightened magician. He modified them to suit his style. The opening number “Snort Wax” - after lighting a foot long candle and extinguishing the flame, snorts it up his nose! Snorting up the nose produces giggles to children.

Then follows a series of ‘easy’ card tricks. The only “manipulation” is his use of the Electric deck modified so instead of a thread linking the cards, he has stapled them alternately. Dan exposes the ‘how’ he is able to

cascade the cards from hand to hand. He is only ‘clowning’ he



demonstrates. Sophistication is out the window. One effect is where he challenges a spectator to name the card (jumbo) but he only sees the back. Of course the spectator doesn't know what the card is so he answers the question “Do you know what the card is?” Answer “No”. Reversing the card, Harlan reveals the card has “NO” written on it.



Production of a mouth coil surprises those assembled. A well worn effect where a borrowed twenty dollar bill, with corner torn off to identify is destroyed and caused to reappear twice in unlikely places. Dan has a spectator stream a can of lighter fluid into a cake pan where the \$20 resides. Dan remarks at the spectator's spraying which is scattered and interrupted that Dan is reminded of a pattern he saw in the men's bathroom.

Suggesting that the male audience assistant was similarly erratic in his aim when urinating. Scatologic references are ‘ok’.

The Professors Nightmare has sexual inuendo. Several mild blue humor remarks seemed to be appreciated without offense.

In the early minutes of the show, a man sitting in a front row seemed hostile and Harlan puts him down, gently. Seemingly, it was taken without pain. If it is not your temperament to make sexual hints or banter with spectators, the comedy circuit may not be for you. Of course we don't know what the audience

(Continued on page 7)



(Dan Harlan — Continued from page 6)

members actually thought about this. I wonder if it is not to appear a prude that they laugh and seem to enjoy.

During his act, Dan gives 8x11 photos of himself as rewards. In his explanation, he explains that the photos have contact information for further employment. And since he gives his photos liberally, you would not imagine that by this photo gimmick, he would enlist a skill. One of photos has on the reverse side instructions for the instant skill “Will you help me. When I paint the scenario that you are in a grocery market and are walking up and down the aisles, tell me which product you would choose. And the product you should say is, “Heinz Ketchup”, in a “glass bottle.” Dan is holding a card on the reverse side of which he predicts will display the ‘choice’. Laughter is the appreciative reaction when he reverses the card labeled Prediction and it shows a giant U.P.C. Code which Harlan says represents Heinz Ketchup! Soon Dan produces magically a true Heinz Ketchup bottle - which inserted into a brown paper bag is an “actual glass” bottle of Heinz and then goes on to be amazingly crushed.

His ‘Curtain Call’ stunt is based upon the card between two glass plates. However, he does it, instead, with two slices of bread in a plastic bag and the stand-in for cards are slices of cheese, annointed with ketchup to simulate the signed card. This effect, entitled “Cheez Wiz” is another opportunity to tease using the word ‘condiment’ as ‘condom’. Harlan succeeds in his promise to provide you with clever off beat variations of classic effects which Pack Small but Play Big. Dr Moskowitz prescribes this (3/5) Rx Rx Rx.

STAND UP WITH CARDS

***This Pack is a Pack of cards
Reviewed by Joel Moskowitz M D
September 25, 2012***

This DVD in the series Pack Small Play Big from L&L publishing is Dan Harlan’s selection of pasteboard marvels. Beginning with a card penetrating a handkerchief which he suggests will maximize audience attention. His version of cards across follows - only one card crosses. Then a selected card is miraculously produced in a noose while a length of rope is inserted into a (supposedly) empty paper bag. Proceeding with a wild west theme, he has a spectator ‘shoot’ a chosen card. His mental epic has a spectator employ a egg beater held up to his forehead thereby transmitting the card (which has been forced) to the audience (There is a jumbo version of the card pasted to the bottom of a tray with which Dan gesticulates to the audience. Thereby the audience assistant has accomplished with the use of the mental device (the egg beater) to effect transmission from his mind to the audience. The spectator is made to look foolish and the audience doesn’t have a reason to be amazed - rather each may secretly be thankful that he/she wasn’t chosen to assist.



Si Stebbens, an ancient card stack - is utilized where several audience members’ cards are announced by Dan Harlan in a burst triggering a standing ovation. Harlan teaches an easy but convincing riffle shuffle.

“Size 9” is the name where a chosen card is discovered folded into quarters (Mercury fold demonstrated) in Dan’s ‘size nine shoe’.

To this reviewer, the choice effect taught by Dan Harlan ‘not any rising card effect’ . No thread hookups or mechanical devices but Harlan’s gimmicked deck and glass creates a puzzling wonder illusion. The card(s) are made to ascend out of the middle of the deck. Harlan reveals all - construction of the necessary device. This trick is worth the cost of the DVD. Dr. Moskowitz prescribes this DVD 5/5 Rx Rx Rx Rx Rx for finger flickers whose compulsion are pasteboards.



(Classic Magic — Continued from page 2)

flaming dove pan that produced his classic act, Chinese linking rings. Jeff not only performed an excellent linking rings routine, but demonstrated a real knack for impromptu patter.

Our president, Derek Ostovani was next with an outstanding – though somewhat off-theme – cards across. Richard Robinson then concluded our Classic Magic presentations with a Professor’s Nightmare, which led into some other rope manipulations that he identified only as The Rope Trick.

Our Classic Magic concluded, Troy Ladmiraault auditioned with a Card to Fly routine and Stan, Kate and Edith. His skills clearly indicating he was no newcomer to magic, and he was enthusiastically voted into membership. As a closer for the evening’s entertainment, Mago Ruly’s guest, Hector Montano, performed a beautiful Ring Levitation, in a mime-to-music style reminiscent of Mago’s Miser’s Dream.

The Classic Magic theme produced some excellent stage magic and is likely to remain in our schedule.

As usual, our meeting was followed by a social gathering at Rudford’s Coffee Shop.

— Bob Miegs

"MagiToon"

by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



VALDARO’S RABBIT HAS SUDDENLY DEVELOPED STAGE FRIGHT.

Ring 76 2011-12 Calendar

Feb. 11	Close-Up Competition*
Mar. 11	Swap Meet
Apr. 8	Teach-A-Trick Night
May 13	Stand Up Competition*
June 10	Money Magic*
July TBD	Installation Banquet
Aug 12	TBD*

* Opportunity for Members to Perform

Hear Ye, Hear Ye !

If you're looking to clear ut your magic drawer and make space for new magic, We have a solution: Donate all (or some) of your old magic to the Ring 76 raffle.

Why: Because you need space for you new magic and your old magic can become someone else's new magic. Not only that, but your donation will help support Ring 76. The Ring 76 Board thanks you in advance.

P.S. On February 11, in addition to magic prizes, we're having a 50/50 raffle where half of the proceeds go to the club and the other half goes to the lucky winner. Tickets go for \$2.00 apiece.

— Kenny Shelton

Ring 76 Library

Ring 76 Needs Your Help!

There are a lot of advantages to being a member of I.B.M. Ring 76. Besides the monthly camaraderie and magical interaction, there are lectures, shows, teach-ins, and lavish parties twice a year. Beyond that, not only does Ring 76 have some of the finest minds in magic today, but it also possesses an impressive lending library that all members in good standing can use when they want.

(Continued on page 9)



(Magic Links — Continued from page 8)

Well, sort of.

Ring 76 does have an impressive library, but it also has a problem. That collection of books is, for the most part, inaccessible right now, stored at our old location, Jack's Magical Museum. When it was our home it was an easy and convenient place to check out reading materials to improve your knowledge of the conjuring arts. Now that we have moved to the Lion's Club, that library is all but removed from the membership.

What we need is a member who can store the books at their home, much like Donna Greenbaum currently manages our extensive DVD collection. We need a member who can host the library and bring books to the meetings as members request them. This is not as daunting a task as it appears because the books can be stored and retrieved, and do not need to be displayed. The Ring does own several bookshelves, so if a member wants to display them, that is no problem. But we need a Ring member to host the print portion of our collection.

So the Board of Directors is calling out to the membership. Our print library needs a home. Can one of you provide it?

If you are interested, contact any Board Member for additional details. We are more than happy to work out the details and answer any of your questions. Being an active Ring member is sometimes more than doing sleights. Sometimes the basic work needs to be done to make the Ring function. This is one of those times. If you have the space and the desire, please contact a Board Member.

— *Richard Ustick*

Can You Help a Fellow Magician?

Ken Kent, a magician and past Ring member from out of state has expressed interest in joining our Ring 76. However he is unable to drive at night.

He lives just a few blocks from the Severen & Amaya Street intersection. If anyone lives close to him and would not mind giving him a ride to club meetings please give him a call at (619) 429-0836.

— *Charlie Gott*

There stands the Castle, by yon tuft of trees

While many of our Ring members belong to the Magic Castle, up in Los Angeles, a good number of them have never visited these enchanted halls of magical mirth.

At the last Board meeting it was suggested that maybe the Ring should sponsor occasional "field trips" to the private club. Castle Members would take small groups of Ring 76rs on an evening trip, most likely in the middle of the week, when attendance is light and they can enjoy the magic without fighting the crowds.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in, and no solid plans have yet been made, please contact a Board member at the next meeting.

— *Richard Ustick*

Magic Notes

John Carney will be presenting two shows and a lecture. Mr. Carney is one of the world's top sleight of hand magicians and creators. He has published numerous books, DVDs and lecture notes. His magic is used by countless of magicians to fool and entertain many times over.

Both the lecture and the shows will be at The Red Spade Theater in the heart of Old Town (www.redspadetheater.com). The magicians only lecture will be on February 9th, starting at 2:00pm. \$25 to attend the lecture is do at the door and reservations are strongly encouraged. The 2 shows will be on February 8th and 9th, both starting at 8:00pm. Limited seating is available for all three events. To reserve show seats, please go to www.redspadetheater.com or contact Sebastian at 619-865-2973