



MAGICURRENTS

SAN DIEGO RING 76

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VOL. XXIX #1

President's Message

Happy Holidays Ring 76.

Thank you all for pitching-in and making December a fun and magical month.

I would like to give a special thanks to those Members who really hustled for us at the Holiday Banquet; Greg Wauson, Jacques Lord, Bob Meigs, Malcolm Campbell and Richard Ustick.

I would also like to thank Kenny Shelton for his Raffle prize contribution and to all who stayed around to help clean up.

All agree that the Rob Zabrecky lecture was a success, but we had no advanced notice that there would be a loud birthday party in the next room. Before we book our next lecture, we will be sure to check the facility calendar.

January is coming and so is a new year of Magic performances. I hope to see some creative performances from our fellow members.

See you all next year,

Salomon Barajas,
President of Ring 76 - IBM

— *Sal Barajas*



Ring 76 2015 Calendar

Jan	12	Mentalism*
Feb	9	Close-up Competition
Mar	9	Ice-Breakers & Business Cards*
Apr	12	Daryl Lecture
Apr	13	Teach-A-Trick
May	11	Stand-up Competition
Jun	8	Kids Magic
Jul	TBD	Installation Banquet
Aug	10	Classic Magic

*Opportunity for Members to Perform

San Diego Ring 76 meets the second Monday of the month at the Clairemont Senior Center, 4425 Bannock Ave, San Diego, CA 92117 at 7pm

Our next regular meeting will be on **January 12 at 7:00 pm**. It will feature the always popular:

Mentalism Night

It will blow your mind!!

Get ready for a brain-busting experience as the Members of Ring 76 showcase their supernatural mental abilities.

Every member has the chance to be part of the show as well as part of the audience. If you have a mentalism effect or routine you would like perform, contact our VP of Entertainment, Greg Wauson at socalbeliever@hotmail.com to reserve a place on the program.

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HONEST SID GERHART RING 76

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NOVEMBER SWAP MEET

We covered the November Swap Meet in the December issue but photos were not available at that time.

Thanks to James Thayer for providing them.!



Make me an offer - please!



Something for everyone.



Everything you need to know.



Get your signed First Edition here!



Would you buy a trick from this guy?



I'll make you a deal you can't refuse.



Keep it Simple!

In a totally unscientific poll, I have concluded that most of us experienced magic for the first time when Uncle Trampus pulled a coin from behind our ear. I came to this conclusion because I actually pull a coin from someone's ear in my strolling act. I begin by asking "What is your first memory of magic?" The vast majority say "Uncle Trampus pulled a coin from behind my ear."

Now, with all of the fabulous and more sophisticated magic out there, why am I pulling coins from peoples' ears? Am I lazy? Am I passing myself off as an expert when I only know the most rudimentary of skills?

Nope. I am keeping it *simple*, but I am also creating a routine that entertains and establishes a connection between me and my audience. Opening with "What was your first experience with magic?" establishes empathy. Most of the audience is now bonded with the performer over a common memory -- a *strong* memory. I go through four false transfers, each more complicated than the last, with jokes and variety along the way (the coin is produced from more places than an ear...). In the final false transfer, the coin vanishes from both hands and reappears from the least expected place. I used many elements Rob Zabrecky so succinctly described in his lecture on the intersection of Theater and Magic: scripting, empathy, building tension (*what is he going to do to top THAT?*), having a solid set of methods to pick from, and letting my audience know I was a skilled and competent magician from a lay point of view -- all with one coin.

I decided to develop this coin routine because of the following experience: It was the Holiday season, eight years ago, and I was hired to entertain a Holiday party of disabled adults who were living in their own apartments with 24/7 assistance. These were adults of all ages; 18 to 80, and they had conditions that ranged from Cerebral Palsy to MS and more. I came prepared to do my best, most sophisticated sleight of hand for them: Cutting the Aces, Poker deals with Faro shuffles, coins across using 4 coins only. After flawlessly performing a

difficult card effect that Tom McCarthy taught me for one lady who was about 24 and confined to a wheelchair, I sat back and waited for her exclamation of wonder and amazement.

She leaned over to me, took my hand in hers and haltingly stated, "I don't get it. Can you pull a coin from my ear?" She looked into my eyes with real interest; She wanted me to amaze her. I did as she asked, and you would have thought I made her levitate on the spot. Her delight was easily >100 on the Whap-o-meter (pronounced: whap-AH-mee-ter; a device based on a puppy's tail to measure joy and exuberance). And that is when I decided that for a lay audience (handicapped or not), keeping it simple was a key principle. Or as Paul Green once told me, "People love the #@*!?! sponge rabbits!"

.... Jacques Lord

Remember, we are looking for product reviews. It doesn't matter if you liked what you paid for or not, we want your opinion for the benefit of the rest of the members. If you're not a writer, we can arrange a short sit-down to gather the facts and write the review.

Shavings from the Board

There was no Board Directors meeting in December due to the Holidays.



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The Board will next meet at Bob Meig's house at 7:00 pm on January 26. Any member of Ring 76 is welcome to attend. If you wish to do so, please contact Bob Meigs at car-hows@sbcglobal.net so that space and food can be planned.

ROB ZABRECKY LECTURE BIG HIT

The lecture by Rob Zabrecky on Sunday, December 7 was a big hit. Rob presented his “Alphabet Lecture”, a 26-point (A – Z) guide to becoming a successful performing magician. Twenty Ring 76 members and three guests attended the presentation.

Rob’s smooth and captivating performance of several effects during the course of the lecture made it obvious that he follows his own advice.

His focus on being a magician first and only was evident when he admitted that, even though he lives in the L.A. area, not only was he not aware

that the Chargers were playing in town that night, he had no idea who the Chargers were! That drew a laugh from the audience and an admission by Rob that he does, indeed, live in a small world with few distractions from his goals as a magician. That’s real dedication – with a Capital “D.”

A very loud party in the adjoining room had no impact on this really cool pro.

V.P. of Entertainment, Greg Wauson, was commended by those in attendance for making the arrangements for Rob to be there.

Thanks to Sal Barajas for the photos.

.... *Editor*





Performance of the Month

Your name could be here next month!

Since the Holiday Party took the place of our regular meeting, there was no Performance of the Month award in December.

But there is plenty of opportunity for you to grab that award for yourself in January. See the announcement for details.

Market Place

Have magic to sell, stage equipment to rent? Looking for something to buy or rent? Need a ride or have room for a passenger to an out of town event such as the Magic Castle?

Have a special skill another member might use? Need a temporary assistant?

Advertise it at no cost to Ring 76 members in this new feature of MagiCurrents

Anything related to magic is acceptable.

FOCUS ON THE LINKING RING

Each month, MagicCurrents will feature an item out of the dozens of informative articles in the current issue of The I.B.M.'s The Linking Ring in which we feel the members might be especially interested.

From the December issue, we have picked from Joe Turner's Ways and Means column, Out of This Galaxy by Dan Alessini. It is particularly appropriate since January is our Mentalism Month.

In the article, Dan addresses the problem of not being able to show the deck beforehand when performing the popular Out of This World by Paul Curry and the variation, Out of The Universe, by Roy Johnson.

Dan presents a full routine based on his variation.

If you do Out of This World or a variation, you will find the information in Joe's column very helpful.



The publication date of each issue of MagiCurrents is the Thursday 10 days before the monthly meeting. Submissions from officers, reporters and other members are due the Wednesday before the publication date. If you want *your* newsletter on time, please be prompt!!





2014 HOLIDAY PARTY

What a great evening of feast, fellowship and entertainment!

Our annual Holiday Party was held December 8 at our new regular meeting spot in the Clairemont Senior Center. The facility proved to be a comfortable setting for the event. The approximately XX Members and guests who attended were particularly appreciative of the extensive parking facilities now available to us.

Food for the potluck began to arrive about 5:30 and it kept coming for the next hour. In addition to a roast turkey donated by Bob Meigs, a ham donated by Jacques Lord, two roast chickens donated by Richard Wira and drinks donated by Bob Meigs, there were appetizers, hot dishes, salads and a whole table full of desserts. The Ring thanks everyone who brought the food.

While the group was assembling, we were treated to the music of fellow member Margo Ruly and his son and daughter. They presented a superb variety of music including Holiday songs with a Latin twist.

Jeff Marcos and Terry Godfrey did some table hoping, amazing guests with their magic. Others shared magic at their tables.

Dinner followed the music. With such a bounty to choose from, plates were piled high – in some cases, several times. There was something for every taste and plenty to go around.

As dinner was winding down, President Sal Barajas presided over the prize raffles with Marjo Abney assisting. There were six prize lots from Kids' Tricks to Stage Magic ranging in value from \$30.00 to \$150.00 and four figurines. Prizes were provided by Salomon Barajas, Kenny Shelton and the Belinda Keasler Estate. A 50/50 drawing put \$50.00 in the pocket of Eddie Olivares who also won the Stage Magic lot. The Ring treasury netted \$165.



Fine music from the Rulys



Sal wins Salesman of the Year!

Then came what we'd all been waiting for – a great performance by Ron Anderson. It was obvious why Ron has quite a following in the corporate world. His wit and ability to make everything around him part of the show kept the attendees applauding and laughing. Audience participation and impromptu twists and turns made it a very entertaining show. Even Bob Meig's pants got into the act.

Every bit of suspense and uncertainty was milked out of the finale with Jordan Lopez as the "victim" in a guillotine routine.

Ring V.P. of entertainment Greg Wauson deserves thanks for making the arrangements with Ron.



Somebody has to win



There must be lemonade in here someplace



Is he *really* carving the turkey or is it an illusion?





Is this the *real* Santa?



Or is *this*?



At no time do my fingers leave my hands



Raffle Prize #1
- Kid Tricks -



Retail Value \$30

Raffle #2
- Close Up Kit -



Retail Value \$150



Raffle #3
- Stage Magic -



Retail Value \$100

Raffle #4
- Stage Magic -



Retail Value \$75



Marjo Abney assists Sal Barajas drawing raffle tickets

Raffle #5
50/50 Cash Prize



\$50.00 Cash to Winner Eddie Olivares who also won #3

The Magnificent Entertainer

Ring 76 thanks **Ron Anderson** for a *great show*



How did he do that?



How many pieces of rope are there, really?



Marjo kept the entertainer entertained!



Anybody see a snake?



You didn't expect to be noticed!?



This hardly ever fails



Jordan Lopez takes a deep breath!

Thank you, Ron for an entertaining performance!

February Close-Up Competition

Fellow Magicians, it is time to get ready for the Ring 76 Annual Close-up Competition coming this February 8th. Competitors will have up to 10 Minutes to show-off their magical skills. The following rules will be strictly enforced:

Time Limit:

10 minutes with a 1-Minute Warning
Once the 1st Vice President Salomon Barajas has called "Time!," the contestants must stop completely.

If a contestant continues to perform after "Time!" has been called, the judges will be instructed to score that contestant with a "0".

Maximum Number of Contestants:

Due to time constraints, our competition can only allow for "8" contestants total.

Table Set-Up & Contest Format:

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(Continued from page 12)

There will be 4 separate tables, each with an official judge. The contestant will have an opportunity to perform for each table/judge once during the course of the event. This means that contestants will be performing their act 4 times. With 8 contestants and only 4 tables available, contestants will be broken up into 2 groups of 4. The two groups will alternate performing every 10 minutes. Example: Group A will perform for the first 8 minutes after which Group B will perform the next 10 minutes, followed by Group A and so on. This alternating of time will allow each contestant an 8 Minute reset period between performances.

Scoring:

Each contestant's performance score will be determined by a combination of both a judges' score and member votes. Judges will score each of the following categories on a scale of 0 to 10.

- **Technical Skill**
- **Showmanship/Presentation**
- **Entertainment Value**

Total Judges' Score for each contestant will be the sum of the scores assigned by each of the 4 judges. This will count as 60% of the contestant's final score.

Each member seated at the tables will get to vote once for his or her favorite contestant. Member votes count for 40% of the final score.

To sign up please contact Greg Wauson at gw83@ring76.com

Greg Wauson
1st Vice President of Entertainment

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of MagiCurrents!

..... editor