



I.B.M. MAGRUM-KIEFER RING No. 11

QUAD CITIES MAGIC CLUB

JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

NEXT CLUB MEETING

January 5, 2012
7:00 PM
Riverside Garden Room
34th Street and 5th Avenue
Moline, IL

ASSIGNMENTS

MC: Rick Brammer

Theme: My Newest Trick

Drinks: Rick & Brandon

Snacks: Rick & Brandon

Teach-A-Trick: Ian &
Brandon

Media Rpt: Jerry Phillips

FEBRUARY MEETING

Theme: I love a good card trick or even better how about a coin effect!

JANUARY MEETING

It's a New Year and we're going to kick off the year with our first meeting Thursday, January 5th. We hope you'll come and entertain us with something exciting that Santa brought you, or perhaps something you have time to work on over the holidays. Whatever it is we sure would like to see you perform at the meeting!

This is going to be a magical year for the club. Risk has several shows lined up and we already have several lecturers that have expressed interest in visiting the club including Denver Pro, Mark Strivings. The Abracorndabra convention will be back in Des Moines May 18-20. Steve Daly has a great lineup of talent and I'm sure it will be a great convention. Make you plans soon—it could be a sell-out this year!

Rick and Jerry have put together an estate of magic that we will be auctioning (via silent auction) at the February and March meetings. I'm told it's a large collection with lots of interesting props and books. It should be interesting!

We lost a long-time club member over the holidays. Larry Johnston, 70, of Moline passed away December 26th at the University of Iowa Hospitals. Larry knew and told more jokes than anyone I've ever known. He had a great sense of humor and when he performed you would always be laughing. We will miss Larry's smiling face and repertoire of jokes.

DECEMBER MEETING

Chock full of magic activities...that's what the first week of December was for members of Ring #11. It started with our regular meeting. New officers were elected for 2012...Eric Dany, President; Rick Brammer, Ken Cooper and Brian Lees, V. President; Michael Dyer, Secretary; Jerry Phillips, Treasurer; Joe Dobson and Luke Van Cleve, Sgt At Arms; and Dave Curley, Bob Dahlquist and Chuck Hanson, Officers At Large.

Justin Gilbraith was presented with his IBM pin and membership certificate. Rick Brammer reported the club will again be performing in Iowa City in June.

Sir Richard reviewed the Tango Coin DVD. Joe Dobson taught Vernon's Variation, a You Do As I Do card trick. Chuck Hanson had everybody roll up newspapers and turn them into Christmas trees, a classic that only a few people had ever done before. We had paper trees all over the room.

David Casas emceed the evening show, which was kicked off by young Nevaeh doing a cute transformation of one coin into another. Justin successfully borrowed a dollar bill from Joe Dobson [a trick in itself]. The bill was destroyed but somehow reincarnated itself and was found snugly resting in an unopened teabag.

Sir Richard did a nice coin routine using Ian as a helper. Joe Dobson used three Chinese coins and some clever Mandarin patter to perform a very unique, well done Three Fly type routine. Steve Dulaney showed us a nice rope routine incorporating elements from George Sands, Daryl and Tabary. Last up was Chuck Hanson with a card from unusual location stunt.

Several nights later 56 members and guests enjoyed the annual Christmas party. In addition to fine food and fellowship we had the amazing and talented Tom Burgoon and Timmy, the toilet paper as our main magical attraction. Is he funny? You bet your bippy he is. But that's not all. The following night Tom did a great lecture for the Ring. Lots of good magic and clever, humorous bits. We loved it.

Our regular Saturday magic brunch bunch is back at the newly redone Windmill Restaurant in East Moline, IL...11 AM. Please join us if you can.

Don't Rush It

by Brian Lees

If you put a timer on a routine or trick the ending/blow off only lasts a few seconds. The patter and manipulation take most of the time. With this in mind I have to ask why so many magicians run to the finish. Often they are so concerned about the fantastic finish that they down play the story line.

Some of the most successful producers take a different approach. It is no secret that they feel the entertainment value is in the build up more than the end. This proves true with some of our own club members. They go through lengthy specific movements, use detailed story lines and pace themselves through their performance. While others just run through the trick to show the finish.

It may be something as simple as showing an empty hand. Some members will hold up their hand and open it one finger at a time in a smooth slow motion. Others just hold their hand up in a high five showing it empty. Don't get me wrong as both movements show the

same image to the audience. I just suggest one is more dramatic than the other.

Everyone, at one time or another, has worked with sponge balls. I will use them as an example. One performer shows the sponge ball to the audience and passes the ball, or so it seems, to the other hand. He moves the hand up and away from his body and opens his hand one finger at a time showing the hand as empty. The second performer shows the sponge ball makes the same type of pass and holds up a high five showing the hand empty.

Both movements produce the same illusion. But I suggest the slower smoother opening of the hand plays better then the quick flash high five. There are times when the performer can play with the audience. Another movement later might be similar. This time the performer may point to his closed hand and look at the audience. Shake his head no as he opens the hand. Again the dramatic movement would play better then a quick open hand flash.

The same holds true with patter. Take your time when telling your story. Use tone of voice, pauses, facial expressions and gestures as you perform. There is nothing wrong with dead space in your performance if it is allowing the audience time to digest what you just said or what is happening. There are times when silence and dead space actually enhance a routine.

Remember that as magicians we do the same trick/routine over and over again. It is easy to take short cuts or get careless and run through a small part we may think is not important. But the cold fact is that short cuts and rushing through the patter or movement distracts from the overall performance.

Just remember that a lot of things need to happen between the “Once upon a time...” and “happily ever after”. Take your time. Don’t rush through it. Allow time for your audience to follow along and be entertained.

Editor’s note --- Many thanks to Brian T. Lees for his newsletter contribution!

FUTURE MEETINGS

January—Your newest trick!

Snacks and Drinks—Need Volunteers

February—Cards and coins

March

April

May

June

Quad City Magic Club Newsletter

July

August

September

October

November

December