



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

QUAD CITIES MAGIC CLUB

MARCH NEWSLETTER

NEXT CLUB MEETING

March 1, 2012
7:00 PM
Riverside Garden Room
34th Street and 5th Avenue
Moline, IL

ASSIGNMENTS

MC:

Theme: Stage, ropes & silks

Drinks: Levi Samuelson

Snacks: Luke Van Cleve

Teach-A-Trick:

Easy—Jerry Phillips
Difficult—Eric Dany

Media Rpt: Sir Richard

APRIL MEETING

Theme: Round Robin Closeup

MARCH MEETING

It's the first of the month and time for our March meeting this Thursday. We hope you'll be there.

Our theme for the evening is stage magic including ropes and silks. You don't have to stick to the evening's theme, just bring something and mystify your fellow members.

Come early (6:30 PM) for the second half of the silent auction. Last month a lot of members picked up new treasurers. There will be lots of props and books—something I'm sure you can use.

Rick Brammer's father passed away this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rick and the family. More information about services will be provided when it is available.

We have lined up David Stone to lecture next month on April 17 at the Garden Center. We also have Denver Pro, Mark Strivings coming to lecture later this Spring. Don't forget the Abracordabra convention—in Des Moines May 18-20.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Eric Dany. Treasurer Jerry Phillips reported 31 paid members. (Those still wishing to join: dues are now \$20 for the rest of the year.) We were glad to have two new guests and some returning members.

Secretary Michael Dyer stated that he, as well as others, had received a well-made video clip of Jeremy Haak demonstrating a number of excellent moves with the linking rings which he had made for Magic Makers. To see it, go to magicmakers.inc and go to the link.

The proposal of a Del Kiefer Achievement Award for Juniors (age 17 and under) was reviewed again, and Rick Brammer moved for the club's leadership to decide upon it and work out the details to be presented next month. Rick also reported on upcoming shows: Iowa City's Festival of Arts on June 3 from noon till 4 pm, a great fund-raiser for the club and an opportunity for members to do some walk-around magic. Also, on March 31 from 9am till noon will be the fund-raiser for the River Bend

Food Bank in Moline which is open to all kinds of performers for children. Though no proceeds come to the club, it is nevertheless another service opportunity to do walk-around magic or help in many other ways. The exact location and further details will be given at the March 1 meeting.

Upcoming lectures: David Stone on April 17 at the Garden Center, and Mark Strivings sometime in July. The February meeting also featured part 1 of a silent auction of the magic books and paraphernalia of 'Dr. Kendo' of Fairfield, IA. The second and final part of the auction will be held at the March meeting.

The educational portion of the meeting featured Sir Richard doing the easy teach-a-trick – Ammar's 'Lazy Man's Card Trick.' No matter where the spectator cut the deck, the face-up card indicated where the chosen card could be found. Then, for the hard trick, Chuck Hanson dug deep into the long-forgotten pseudo-mystical arts and showed us how a spectator can mentally divine another person's chosen card by measuring the distance between his eyes with a tape measure, which proved to be a superior method to phrenology. Thanks Chuck and Karrel Fox. Eric Dany gave a thumbs-up report on the book *Newspaper Magic* by Gene Anderson and Francis Marshall. It contains not only different methods for making newspaper Christmas trees and Jacob's Ladders, but also tricks involving them, as well as one of the best torn-and-restored newspaper tricks, and many others as well.

February, being the second month, must have magically inspired our performers to do either two tricks or a trick with two effects. Luke Van Cleve started us off by having a card chosen from a red deck and returned. When the chosen card was magically found, it had a blue back which was then set aside if full view. After double checking to see that all of the other cards were still red, it seems that the chosen card had in the meantime reverted back to being red also.

Next, Jerry Philips regaled us with his collection of rare lecture notes (ex. Dai Vernon's "Card Magic using Svengali and stripper decks"), and followed it with a card trick in which a chosen card is found blind, behind the back and even reversed.

Eric Dany placed a quarter inside his cell phone, where it could be seen rolling around on the screen, and then retrieved it. Then, switching to his iPad, he displayed an old daguerreotype photo of his great-grandfather Dany in his rocking chair surrounded by other family members. After a card was chosen and returned to the deck, Eric didn't have to find it. He merely returned to the photo of his ancestors, and there was Granddad holding the chosen card in his hand.

The ever inventive Rick Brammer demonstrated his newest creation – a light weight microwave that looks amazingly like a cardboard box. He inserted a bag of microwave popcorn, we waited a few seconds listening to the silent popping of the popcorn, and produced a bowl of fully popped popcorn. Yes, that's right, he too has mastered the art of 'changing a bag into a bowl.' The real magic involved placing four quarters placed into a lady's locket on a chain, only to have it change moments later into a dollar bill. This was followed by an astounding head-scratching effect in which a wallet containing four slips of paper (red, yellow, blue, and green) is handed to an audience member who, while Rick had his back turned to the audience, freely chose and removed one of the slips, passed the wallet onto another member to remove another slip, and so on till all four slips had been removed. Then, after turning back to the audience, he immediately informed each member what color slip they had removed.

Sir Richard performed "Get Thee Behind Me, Satan" from Hugar in which a chosen card is

turned over and inserted back into the deck while it is held behind him. When the deck is brought forward in front, the turned over card is now a locator card lying on top of the chosen card that is turned down. In a second trick, a chosen card is returned to the deck, while a prediction is proven to be incorrect. Yet while is still in his hand, it changes into the chosen card.

Joe Dobson produced coins from the fabric of his shirt, and then did a trick with jokers, the ones found in a deck of cards. After giving a packet of four jokers a lateral twist, a joker was seen to have flipped over face down. This was repeated until all four had done so. Instead of applause, Joe asked for 'high fives,' and then revealed that all the jokers had become fives.

Chuck Hanson performed last, but disappointed us on the first trick in not finding a spectator's chosen card. However, due to his many years of excellent magic and entertainment, we silently gave him a pass. His second card trick involved a 3-card monte with three jumbo tens (one red one in between two black ones.) To make things even easier for us, he had a blue sticker placed on the back of the red ten to identify it. Nevertheless, when we chose that card as the red ten and it was placed aside in full view, it was revealed that the black tens were still black, and the red one was now a black queen. Chuck then showed us the inner workings and special moves needed to perform it, and how a company logo card could be used instead of the queen. To demonstrate the trick once again, now that we knew the secret maneuvers, the final reveal was neither the queen nor a business card, but the chosen card of the *first "failed" trick*. Yes, he is still a sly fox that can fool and did fool us all.

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.

Performing with Hearing Aids by Brian Lees

I thought it appropriate to share an article on working with hearing aids. Hearing aids are considered as anything special. But they do force me to a different approach than you may take. There are two elements in hearing loss. The first is obvious as you just can't hear the sound. The second is experienced more. The second element is comprehension. For me I hear a lot but if the individual is not talking clearly all I hear is a bunch of jumble.

There are many different kinds of people in your audience. Some have larger vocabularies than others. A few people speak with an accent while others are soft spoken. Still other audience members may talk loud enough but just do not speak clearly. All these factors put me in a different posture as a performer. But that is alright as I have lived with this disability for a long time and making adjustments has become natural.

My first adjustment involves bringing up volunteers to help with a routine. We all introduce them to the audience. When I perform my stage show I have a wireless microphone I wear. I also have a wireless stick microphone I pick up, turn on and have them say their name. The audience hears it and it is pronounced correctly. I challenge you to introduce a personal with a twelve letter last name any other way.

My sound system is the first thing I pay attention to. My level of hearing is worse than the audience. So I make a specific attempt to get the volume right. If people are holding their ears I know to turn down. If people seem to be leaning forward I turn it up. There have also been times when I

have just asked my audience if the sound volume was comfortable for them. Nothing will kill a performance quicker than overpowering volume or no volume at all.

I also have learned to watch the faces of my audience. I intentionally pick out three or four to glance at periodically. I like to select young, older and one in the back. I work my entire audience but these are my check points. If their facial expressions direct change I adjust as I perform. Change?

Watch body language. Their language will suggest “speed up”, “slow down”, “what-I don’t understand” and other receptions. Chances are if their body language suggests something then other audience members are thinking the same thing. You should not be afraid to speak to one side of the audience and then walk over and talk to the other. Remember any performance where the audience cannot hear what is being said, can’t understand what is being done, or doesn’t follow the story line will probably fail.

Here are a couple suggestions I will share that helps audience members follow along. Feel free to use these suggestions if you think it will increase the levels of your performance. Slow your speech down just a little. This will give you time to pronounce each word well enough people in the audience will comprehend. Be sure you are facing the audience as you talk. Do not look down at the prop or your hands as you work. Words pointed down or to the back will not be picked up by people in the back of the audience.

In closing let me remind you that you may have the best show, hottest movements, newest routines and most fantastic magic on the planet. But if your audience cannot hear, comprehend, see or follow along with your presentation the show is doomed to fail. Working with hearing aids does not give me an advantage. It really has no measurable effect on one persons performance verses another. But having aids helped me learn some valuable elements that must be considered when performing.

2012 Meetings

Month	Theme	Drinks	Snacks
January	My new trick(s)	Brandon & Rick	Brandon & Rick
February	Cards, coins & bills	Dave Curley	Dave Curley
March	Stage, ropes & silks	Levi Samuelson	Luke Van Cleve
April	Round robin close-up	Ken Cooper	Joe Dobson
May	Classics of magic	Eric Dany	Jesster
June	Stage, close-up contests	Bradley Wheeler	Chuck Hanson
July	Picnic—stage	Bring you own drinks and	dessert to share
August	Auction	Todd Herbst	Todd Herbst
September	Comedy	Michael Dyer	Michael Dyer
October	Halloween, mentalism		Chuck Hanson
November	Teach-in	Toto	Eric Dany
December	Holiday, children		