

## Quad Cities Magic Club – February, 2015

The evening began again, like last month, with our second teaching session for the public from 6:00 to 6:45. A number of new faces showed up who were unable to attend in January. Another such session will be held on Thursday, Mar. 5, at the same time. Please, keep spreading the word about our magic teach-ins. Rick Brammer reported that a school/library show has been planned for the club on July 10 in Baxter, IA. Close-up and stage performers are needed.

### Upcoming lectures:

March 25 or 26 – **Francis Menotti** from Philadelphia

April 23 – **Greg Wilson** (not Mark Wilson's son)

June 7 – **Bill Trotter's** collection of old magic, one of the top five in the nation.

The **Central Illinois Magic Convention** will be held in Peoria, IL this year on April 25.

Media report: Jerry Philips reported on a very unusual book, The Adventures of 51 Magicians and a Fakir by Angel Ettagoras. It consists of 52 mini-biographies of magicians and a caricature drawing of each, the artist being the same as the author. Each bio is also associated with a different card (hence the reason for 52 bios), and the order of the cards is that of the Sy Stebbins stack. Thus, besides reading it, at least 10 tricks can also be performed using this book, two of which Jerry performed as examples.

Easy teach-a-trick: Ken Wilson taught two card tricks: 1. A card is chosen and the deck is then mixed into face-up and face-down cards. The chosen card is inserted and the deck cut. When it is spread, the cards are found to be all face down except the chosen one. 2. Two cards were chosen and used to start two piles. Half the deck was counted and used to make two equal piles. The top cards of the piles turned out to be pairs of the original cards, which were followed by the four aces as a bonus.

Hard teach-a-trick: Chuck Hanson had us take out our handkerchiefs and taught us the gypsy switch, and then suggested various ways for using it – bills, balls, torn pieces, etc. I successfully used it on Valentine's Day and turned colored pieces of paper into tiny valentines – she liked it. Thanks, Chuck.

### **Performances:**

Eric Dany began the evening with a mental effect using two paperback books. Into one of them a card was randomly inserted, a choice made about right or left side, and the resultant page number stated. A volunteer then looked up that page number in the other book. After concentrating on that page, Eric mentally revealed the first line on that page.

Craig Beytein stole the show with a trick he has been developing for some time. He and a volunteer are each given a rack containing five differently colored wooden discs, a spindle, and a screen. In imitation of early ESP experiments, the volunteer placed the discs on the spindle in any order he wished, or

removed and placed them in the rack, again in any order he chose. Every time when the screens were lifted, the magician's order of discs matched that of the volunteer's. With some variations on the procedure and some added comedy, this was quite the colorful, fascinating, and baffling routine. Well done, Craig.

Next, Steve Delaney performed Jay Sankey's "Blackpool Effect." After a card is named by a volunteer, a card with the name printed on the back is found, but the face is different. Then the card is changed into the correct one.

Craig Bruckman did a coin routine in which the coin continually changes hands, or disappears and is found in the pocket. This was followed by an escape routine in which his arms were shackled with a heavy chain and padlocked. He escaped within seconds. Nicely done.

Craig Cox did a trick involving scarves that changed their numerical order and even their colors.

Chuck Hanson kept us laughing with a rope in which the number of ends and middles continued to multiply and change until he finally ended up with his original, single long rope.

Finally, T. J. Regul presented a brochure with colors and cards from which a deck was produced. This was followed by versions of the ambitious card.

**Next month:**

Media report: Craig Cox

Easy teach-a-trick: Craig Beytein

Hard teach-a-trick: T.J. Regul