

Quad Cities Magic Club – June, 2015

It was contest night, so business was brief. Next month is the Annual Picnic on July 2, just 50 feet south of the Garden Center under the pavilion along 34th St. in Moline. Food is provided – grilled meat (hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, pork patties), potato salad, baked beans. Also paper plates and plastic ware. All you need to bring is your own beverage, and possibly a salad or dessert to share. The cost for both members and non-members of the club is the same: \$5 per person. The meal begins at 6pm, with the magic performances at 7pm. Please, bring friends and family for a night of good food and great fun. After all, how can you pass it up – dinner and show at such a great price. Every year it is hot during the day with cool breezes at dinner time to make the evening enjoyable – always – it's like magic! Reservations (or cancelation of previous reservations) need to be in by Friday, June 26. (After that date, payment for cancelation of any reservations must be honored.) Please call the Fun Co. at 309-798-0923 with your reservations.

Other Dates to Remember:

June 7, Sun – Bill Trotter lecture, 3pm, Garden Room. Bill will share his collection of Okito magic equipment.

July 10, Friday – School/library show has been planned for the club on July 10 at 6:30 in Baxter, IA. Close-up performers are still needed.

Sep. 13, Sun – Club show in Coralville, IA from noon till 4:00, consisting of four hours of walk-around magic.

Oct. 24, Sat – Spooktacular

Dec. 7, Mon – Christmas Party

Chuck Hanson moved that Danny Flushman of St. Louis be contacted to see if he is available for a lecture in the fall. Also, it was suggested that Francis Menotti, whose previously scheduled lecture unfortunately had to be cancelled, be contacted to see if he might be available for a combination lecture and Christmas show.

Media report: Chuck Hanson reported on the book *McCombical* by Billy McComb with comments and anecdotes made by fellow magicians on each of the tricks. Many of Billy's great tricks are presented, but what is unusual about the descriptions is that whereas most tricks in books are explained in 1-3 or so pages, Billy's takes up 8-10 pages each, due to his very meticulous notes covering all aspects of the performance.

Easy teach-a-trick: Eric Dany presented a card trick involving a miracle against incredible odds. A deck is cut in half by a volunteer with each half cut in half again, making four piles. The odds are then figured

for as to the probability of the top cards of the piles matching in terms of color, suit, and number. Yet in spite of the odds, when the cards are turned over, they are the four aces.

Performances: And then it was contest time, emceed by Ken Cooper.

Close-up involved six contestants. First up was Mark Yeager. After an opening card trick in which the card case shrunk in size and all the backs of the cards became different, he performed an excellent cup-and-ball routine.

Brian Lees slid a CD into the side of its CD case and threaded a ribbon through the center. The CD was then passed through the other side of the case, mystifyingly freed from the ribbon, leaving the case still threaded on the ribbon. A nice baffler.

Yoga presented a coin, a clear glass, and a paper cover for the glass. The glass was placed over the coin, and the paper over the glass. When the paper was removed, the coin had mysteriously vanished. A great beginning for our youngest contestant ever.

Accompanied by Star Trek music, Craig Cox pointed out that the Starship Enterprise was above us and would help us by using an intercom device. A card was selected and returned by a volunteer and the deck padlocked. Incorrect guesses were made as to the card. So, the intercom device had to be used to call for help from space. The padlock was then removed and the selected card had disappeared, but there inside the device was found the missing card.

T J Regul told a story of three magicians who competed in placing a ring on a string. The first from Chicago merely placed the ring through the string, the magi from Peoria blew it on the string, but the one from the Quad Cities (who could that be?) threw it on the string. TJ then did his own version of John Bannon's "Play It Straight Triumph." A card is selected. The remaining deck is divided into four piles and shuffled back together with cards face-up and face-down. When the suit is named, the deck is spread, revealing only that suit reversed in the deck minus the missing card. With his warm presentation it was most impressive.

Finally, Luke Van Cleve had two volunteers each pick a card, mark them with a pen, fold them, and place them in their fists. When they opened them, the cards had switched places. All this time a third volunteer held a card case with a single card inside. A spectator was asked to name any card. When the case was opened, the named card was the one inside. Well done effects.

Our **Stage Contest** brought out four performers, all of whom had performed in close-up.

Craig Cox returned for a linking ring routine but using barbed wire. The rings linked kept sticking to his clothes, forcing him to use a hacksaw which ultimately became linked to the rings also.

Brian Lees performed what had been for him a signature trick. An egg cup is shown and a cylinder placed over it, covered by a silk. An egg is placed in a paper bag and the bag broken, but the missing egg did not appear in the egg cup. Another attempt was made, the popped bag this time full of feathers, but

no egg in the cup. Finally the tray he was using broke, and on it were the two missing eggs, now in fried condition.

Mark Yeager brought out a torch which became a silk which was then used for some silk magic, ending in the production of a fake bird. This was followed by a fine rope routine, ending with a volunteer who followed Mark's moves and removed a knot from a rope.

The competition ended with TJ Regul. First a yellow ball was placed in a yellow bag which changed into several small yellow balls, one large ball, and a giant wand. Then came what could be a signature trick of TJ's. Six large drums are brought out and four volunteers to help guard the drums. Each has a set of four cards, including a duck card, and is asked to choose a card. On the basis of the random choices, a tiger wearing a green scarf should be in the third can. Sure enough, that is what happens, with a duck in all the other cans. Kids and adults alike laughed and enjoyed this routine.

Another great contest night – a lot of lame jokes and a lot of good magic. The winners will be announced at the picnic. Magicians, don't forget to bring some magic to share!