

Quad Cities Magic Club, Ring 11 – August, 2015

Next month: September 3 – Ring 11 Annual Magic Auction. Time to gather up old and unused magic items to sell, so that the rest of us can see and regard them as choice items to purchase. Here are the rules:

1. There will be no magazines or video tapes. There will be no individual books or DVD's, but low-cost books or DVD's can be grouped into a bundle to become one item.
2. Magic items can be sold individually or bagged in groups. The limit of items sold by an individual person will be 10/person, an "item" being either a single magic trick, or a single bag of tricks, or a single group of books or DVD's.
3. EACH "ITEM" must have an accompanying description that adequately describes the item or the contents of the bag or bundle, so that the auctioneer can clearly read and describe it. After all, the ultimate seller is you, not the auctioneer, who is trying to sell your wares, so make the "item" description clear and interesting.
4. You may put a minimum sale price on any of your 'items.'
5. a. Doors open at 6:00pm,
b. The sale items and their descriptions must be ready and displayed by 6:30,
c. The auction begins at 7:00.

Now on to business. The evening began with the introduction and warm welcome of Jackson Green, a student at St. Ambrose, who will be working at the Fun Co. Drop in and meet him; he's has some great tricks of his own to show you in addition to what is currently available.

Sep. 13, Sun – Club show in Coralville, IA from noon till 4:00, consisting of four hours of walk-around magic. Please let Rick Brammer know soon if you can go and perform.

Oct. 24, Sat – Spooktacular – 3 stage and at least 2 walk-around magicians needed

Dec. 7, Mon – Christmas Party

No other lectures are planned for the rest of the year so far, but Ken Cooper suggested the possibility of showing computer download lectures that he has purchased. The Garden already has a projector and screen installed in the ceiling. To be further discussed next month.

It was decided to restart the Magic 101 course in Oct. Teachers, tricks, and advertising will be worked on during the time being.

Brian Lees moved, seconded by Craig Beytien, that any performer serving at any venue and representing the club will turn over any money received to the club. The motion was amended to say that any "fun bucks" intended to go to committed performers who failed to show up for a designated show will be distributed among the performers who actually did perform at said venue. Amended motion carried.

Craig Beytien demonstrated his own upgraded version of a trick by Okito, involving a beautifully crafted oak cabinet with three compartments – one with a bottle of rice, one with a silk, and one empty but meant to hold a stack of “money,” symbolized by a stack of solid, audience-examined wooden checkers. There was also a separate “pagoda,” a round disc with a tall, round cover. With an accompanying story about a poor Chinese family needing a place to hide their money and foil would-be thieves, the rice was placed in the middle compartment where the checkers go, and the checkers placed in the pagoda and covered. The thieves are fooled since the rice bottle and checkers have switched places. Well-made and well presented.

Tonight was our annual Round-Robin in which everyone performs close-up magic for 2-3 others at a time.

Ken Wilson had a deck shuffled, cut into four piles by a volunteer. Yet each pile ended up having an ace on top.

Ken Cooper performed a card trick to the theme of King Arthur. A card (the “sword”) is selected which was placed halfway in the deck in its case, the “stone”. Just holding the card, the rest of the deck and case mysteriously hung onto the card. When the volunteer held the card, Ken spread the deck and released the card’s magic hold. Another card was selected and the first card was used to find the second card by causing the deck to break by itself to where the second card lay.

Kim Meacham showed three hardware nuts – two went into the hand and one in the pocket, but three appeared back in the hand. This was repeated until one eventually became a bolt, and finally the two nuts appeared already threaded on the bolt.

Todd Herbst had the deck shuffled and cut. By “listening” to the top three cards on his pile, he could name the third card down on the volunteer’s pile. This was repeated and could have continued so.

Michael Dyer had a card selected, the deck divided into four piles, and the piles shuffled into each other, including face-up and face-down. When spread, only the suit of the selected card was reversed and in order, thereby revealing which card was missing in the order – the selected card.

Luke Van Cleve had a selected and returned. By slamming the deck with his hand, the selected card was found beneath the card mat.

Steve Delaney dealt out ten ESP cards. Volunteers placed objects on top of any card in the layout. Another set of cards were dealt making two per pile. The piles with objects on them had matching ESP cards, while all others piles consisted of two unmatched cards.

Jackson Green performed a trick of his own. Two kings and a joker were presented. A card was selected and placed backward between the two kings, the three cards then placed on the table with the selected card face down. The joker was on top of the deck. After the joker was waved over the other three, the joker was seen to have changed into the selected card, and the card between the kings became the joker.

Chuck Hanson had a blue deck which he marked on the back. A card was freely selected from a face-up spread. When turned over, the card was now a red card with the number and suit printed on the back.

Eric Dany read the paragraph that always appears on one of the jokers. A card was selected, returned, and shuffled into the deck. He then had difficulty finding the card. Finally, he had the joker's paragraph reread by the volunteer which now had different wording that revealed the name of the card.

Dave Curley presented a die box that fits in the hand and a quarter. It was the same routine as the stage version, but when the box is vigorously shaken, you know the quarter has left the box, making the close-up version even more mysterious.

There were a few other performers, but this reporter was unfortunately unable to see all the tricks which I am sure were equally miraculous.

See you next month, Sept. 3, for the Annual Auction.