

Quad Cities Magic Club, Ring 11 – January, 2016

Our January meeting began with the gavel sounded by Ken Cooper, since our new president, Joe Dobson, was stranded at Las Vegas airport. There are worse places to be stranded.

Upcoming shows:

Sat., Jan. 23 – benefit magic show in honor of Sir Richard in Macomb – stage magicians have been chosen, walk-around magicians and stage hands have volunteered, but always room for more. (Since these minutes are going out today, I can report that the club put on a great show – 3 stage performers with 10-12 stage tricks, much close-up. It's too bad the crowd was small.)

March – magic show in Waukee, IA – exact date not yet determined

Lectures: March 10 – David Stone, close-up magician, 7-9pm, at First Congregation Church in Moline.

The three-month course, Magic 101, will begin on Thurs., Feb. 4 at 6:00-6:45pm. A committee, headed by Joe Dobson, will prepare for it. For those who can post advertisements about it in your community, posters are available at the Fun Co.

The yearly dues are due - \$15 for the year (\$20 after the end of the Feb. meeting).

Acting on last month's motion to spend \$100 of our \$200 annual library fund, the club has purchased twenty lecture DVD's from the series At the Table. Since they come packaged with several per package, TJ Regul, our librarian, is asking whether there are any members who may have some empty DVD cases that can be donated to the club, so that the twenty DVD's can each have their own case, and therefore can be more easily and widely shared among ourselves. If so, please bring them to our next meeting in February.

Rick Brammer moved (2nd by Todd Herbst) that for the next 3 months Eric Dany be allowed to hold a silent auction of older magic items from the Fun Co at our meetings. If it is successful and appreciated, then it may continue for many months to come. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to the club.

The recent month-long magic display at the Davenport Library was successful in that several magic books were checked out by kids at the library. Could joining a magic club be in their future?

Craig Beytien presented some magic projects that he is currently working on: a set of nested Russian dolls which in this case are all magicians (with one female assistant, of course) and can be used for small loads; a box with the Mignon effect with large load; a tesseract transposition that occurred in a flash; and finally Bewildering Blocks, a new set of wooden blocks and a box that holds five blocks – the blocks are put in randomly but when opened again the blocks now spell the chosen or predicted word.

Media report: T J Regul presented not a book report, not a DVD report, but rather a basic primer on the other forms of media available where magic can be found – podcasts, video streaming, ebooks, iPhone magic, PDF's, etc. along with examples and costs involved. Quite enlightening! For some of us, it is an unknown world of magic that awaits our perusal. Thanks, TJ.

Easy teach-a-trick: Kim Meacham presented a packet of cards with all the J's, Q's, K's, and A's. After several cuts, four piles were made, each turning out to be J-A, each pile being a single suit. Nice and easy.

Performances:

Stew Yager presented four coasters, one of which had a spike sticking up through it. A ketchup cup was placed on each coaster, thus covering up the spike, and the coasters moved around while the magician's back was turned. Stew picked three cups and smashed them, leaving the covered spike as the final one.

Carter and Frank, grandson and friend of Ken Cooper, performed two tricks. 1. A prediction was placed in a card case. Cards were counted until someone called 'stop.' The next card matched the prediction. 2. The second trick involved four piles – the cards are redistributed and the four aces appeared on top of the piles. Nice beginning, and hopefully new presentations to be made by these two over this year.

Next was Craig Cox with four quick tricks. 1. A piece of paper was stroked until it instantly turned into a dollar bill. 2. A paper disc was presented with a metal tube through the center. A small packet of cards with holes through the cards were also placed on the tube. The disc was spun and within seconds the cards disappeared while the disc continued to spin, only to re-appear on the tube behind the spinning disc. 3. A blank disc was shown and a red silk passed through the center hole. After the silk emerged, the disc was seen also to have turned red. This was repeated with yellow, green, three colors which produced a tri-color disc, and finally back to blank. 4. Finally, a clear box with a doll's dress was covered, and when lifted again, the box now contained a doll wearing the dress.

Michael Dyer presented a card trick as presented by Mark Pocam, U.S. Representative from Wis. who presents a magic trick every Monday night, many on Facebook. Magician chooses a card and sets it aside. A volunteer makes three uneven piles of cards, chooses randomly a pile to reveal the color, then another for the suit, and finally the last pile is used to reveal the actual number. The chosen card is shown to match the prediction piles.

Kim Meacham first formed a bag out of a silk into which went four coins which then disappeared. One by one, the coins came back and were produced in different ways from the bag. For a second trick, Kim displayed two sets of ESP cards, red and blue. A volunteer chose one deck, and then he and Kim each randomly chose a card from their own packets and exchanged their cards. When revealed, they had chosen the same symbol to exchange, but Kim also showed that the volunteer's remaining cards in his hand were all blank. Nice added surprise.

Ken Cooper placed three cards each in a different pocket, low in the right, next in the left, and high in the back. A volunteer then took a deck, dealt three cards and placed his cards also in the same pockets. When the cards were removed from the same respective pockets, they were exactly the same ones.

Mark Yeager did a great “Cards Across.” Ten cards each from a red and a blue deck were counted out into the hands of two volunteers. A number was called for (3), and three cards from the blue deck were revealed to the audience. Then after magic words and gestures were summoned, three cards mysteriously traveled from one packet to the other. The two packets were counted again which were now 7 and 13, and the same three blue cards were now seen to be in the red packet.

Grace Abel, a new visitor, did a very skillful routine with a change bag and two silks which magically appeared, disappeared, and changed places. A magical, colorful experience. We look forward to seeing more of her magic as well.

Eric Dany had a volunteer think of a card and a number, 1-52. They were then interrupted by a pesky fly which was caught and smashed between halves of the deck. The smashed fly lay on the back of the thought of card.

Todd Herbst had a joker inserted into the deck, the card in front of the joker remembered, and the deck shuffled. Two piles were made, and while the chosen card was looked for in one pile, the other pile was ‘accidentally’ dropped all over the floor. The card was eventually found in Todd’s shoe.

Tim Stolba presented three wine goblets and two decks (red and blue). A choice was made (red), the backs and fronts shown, and placed in goblet #1. One-by-one, a card was taken out of #1 and placed in #3 until someone said ‘stop.’ The card in the magician’s hand at that moment was placed in #2. The volunteer then looked for the same chosen card in the blue deck. It was not found and the deck held only 51 cards. The goblets were turned around, and the cards in #1 and #3 were still red, but the chosen card in #2 was blue (the one missing from the deck). Terrific!

Chuck Hanson performed David Williamson’s “He Who Spelt, It, Dealt It.” A deck is shuffled twice, and the hearts, 1-10, are taken out exactly as they lay in the deck. He then engaged a young volunteer in a spelling challenge. Every time he misspelled a card, a seven appeared, but when the volunteer spelled it correctly, that very card turned up next. This continued until one card was left. It was fairly obvious that it would be a ten, but for Chuck it still turned out to be a seven.

See you next month, and if you know anyone who would like to learn magic, please tell them about Magic101 which begins next month, February 4.

Next month: February

Media report: Eric Dany

Easy teach-a-trick: Brian Lees

Hard teach-a-trick: Mark Yager

MC – Jerry Phillips

Snacks and beverage – Dave Curley

Theme – Valentine magic