

Quad Cities Magic Club, Ring 11 – July, 2016

July is the month of our annual picnic, when the winners of June's magic contests are announced and awarded. For Close-up, the winners were: 1st place – Stu Yager, 2nd – Kim Meacham, 3rd – Mark Yeager. For Stage, the winners were: 1st – Grace Able, 2nd – Brian Lees, 3rd – Ken Wilson. Congratulations to all the winners.

In other news, **Upcoming lectures:**

Sunday, Sep. 11 – Garrett Thomas

Thurs., Oct. 13 – Dan Fleshman

As usual, since it is the picnic, many performers showed up – 15 that night.

First up was Brian Lees who reprised his contest presentation of Stratosphere, involving a story of a bus driver, three kids, and an anti-bullying message.

Next, Jerry Phillips performed his inimitable version of the updated Chinese sticks, involving very long strings.

Craig Beytien presented a beautiful Chinese die box routine accompanied by an ancient story of a Chinese wizard.

Grace Able also reprised her magic contest routine, done in silence and dressed in a Japanese kimono, and involving the disappearance of sponge balls and their appearance under a bowl, fan manipulations, and "Snow Storm in China."

Mark Yeager performed a comedy version of Gypsy Threads with pieces of dental floss.

Todd Herbst did a trick in complete silence involving flip cards to be read by the audience. The flip cards directed a volunteer to think of a card, which after some funny moments along the way, resulted in a folded card emerging from Todd's mouth, the thought-of card.

Craig Cox turned an ATM card into several large \$100 bills which were then switched out for large \$10 bills and back again.

Eric Dany had a volunteer put on an "I Lie" Detector, a gadget that light up when the gadget detects that a lie is being told. He then proceeded to ask a volunteer a number of questions, prompting answers of truth/falsity, the veracity of which the detector hilariously judged. This was followed by a monte routine of three wallets. The volunteer ends up with a dollar, having missed choosing the wallets with the \$50 and \$100 bills.

Luke Van Cleve did a card trick in which a volunteer freely selects a card with a red back from a face-up deck, only to find out that it is the only red back card in a blue backed deck.

Jesus Rios did the spike under one of five paper cups routine – the safe version of not involving the volunteer's hand. The only reluctance for the volunteer was the continual choice of the next cup to test. Jesus happily survived to the relief of an on-the-edge-of-your-seat audience.

Kim Meacham began with two goblets, a scarf, and two packets of cards – 1-10 spades and 1-10 hearts in numerical order, and placed them in the goblets. The spades were shuffled, the new haphazard order shown to the audience, and a card chosen by a volunteer to be reversed in the packet. A scarf was passed briefly over the other packet. The heart packet was spread and now found to match the order of the spade packet, including the reversed card.

Ken Wilson had a card chosen which he psychically divined from a young girl's mind. Then his deck of randomly mixed cards were dealt out in pairs, and suddenly split and spread into two rows – one red and one black and in new deck order.

Richard Able did the ultimate escape from chains and padlocks, a strait jacket, ropes on the outside of the jacket, his head in stocks, and his feet shackled to concrete blocks and placed into a small tent. In the meantime . . .

Michael Dyer divined which movie titles several spectators chose from a long list, based on how they verbally spoke the names of the titles. When one spectator fooled him, the correct answer was "beamed" from the spectator's mind onto a blank paper buried in a nest of folded papers.

. . . After that, Richard Able emerged from his tent free and unshackled. We were all grateful he used a tent and not a water tank.

Finally, Chuck Hanson, after some funny heckling from our club president over his wanting to perform the old and hackneyed 6-Card Repeat, had three cups with a differently colored scarf in each and placed on a clear plastic board. When the board was turned over, the cups remained stuck to the board while two of the scarves were removed from the cups, but did not interfere with the cups' adherence to the board. The board was turned back over, the empty cups placed on the remaining cup, and the board turned over again. The stack of cups continued to cling to the board and the final scarf removed.

It was another great and surprising Ring 11 picnic, where old and new magic, professional and amateur magic was presented, and everyone had a good time.