

Quad Cities Magic Club, Ring 11 – Sept., 2016

Our September meeting opened with a few announcements:

The October meeting (10-6-16) will have a theme of Halloween or Spooky or Bizarre Magic. Members are encouraged to perform magic with one of these themes, but anyone can perform magic of any type.

Garrett Thomas will lecture at our regular meeting place on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 pm. The lecture cost is \$10, or \$5 in Magic Bucks.

Dan Fleshman will lecture at our regular meeting place on Thursday, October 13th at 7:00 pm. The lecture cost is \$10, or \$5 in Magic Bucks.

The Auction/Flea Market will be held Saturday, September 24th at the First Congregational Church at 2201 7th Avenue in Moline. Any member may set up a table for \$5 in the flea market. Any member may put up to 10 lots of items in the auction (for lots valued at \$10 or more). Buyers at the flea market or auction do not need to be members. Five other magic clubs have been invited to the event. The doors for the flea market set-up open at noon, the market opens at 1:00. The auction begins at 2:00. Flea market tables may be open during the auction, but sellers may close their table at any time.

For the October meeting, Ken Cooper will MC. The Easy Teach-a-Trick will be covered by Eric Dany, the Advanced Teach-a-Trick will be covered by Joe Dobson. The Media Report will be given by Kim Meacham.

In tonight's Media Report, TJ Regul reviewed Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic, one of many resources available in the Club library. Much great magic is in this book!

Todd Herbst taught the Club members an extremely powerful effect using a borrowed dollar bill. Once you know the easy secret, you can always know which hand the spectator has hidden the bill in, AND you will know the last two digits of the serial number. This is a winner!

Ken Wilson then showed the Club one of, if not THE, simplest Magic Squares around. Ken demonstrated that practically anyone can complete the Magic Square within 30 seconds. An excellent method!

In tonight's performance, nine Club members showed their magical expertise.

- 1) The Joker (aka Todd Herbst), interrogated Miss Scarlet (wonderfully played by Ken Cooper, complete with bonnet) about the murder of Mr. Green. Using a magic mirror (where **does** he get all those *wonderful* toys?), The Joker was able to solve the mystery in this pun-laden game of Clue.
- 2) Craig Cox presented two routines. In the first, he set up five cards with colored spots in a display stand. Then, showing only the backs of a second set of five cards, he placed them on top of the original five, wherever the audience directed. When all was said and done, every card matched its mate! Then, Craig brought out what we thought were Acrobatic Silks, but he claimed they were actually made from Jerry's pajamas. Huh. He then proceeded to show how he could slyly move the red pj piece from place to place, then finished by moving it magically.

- 3) TJ Regul also performed two effects. He did a Coins and Cup routine, with a beautiful sound, and elegant visual magic. Pure sleight of hand, and very smooth. Then he showed how he could do the impossible by removing a ring from a key that clearly was not narrow enough to allow this. He capped it off by hanging the key on the ring, all done while the key was firmly held by a spectator.
- 4) Grace Abel, resplendent in dress, hat, and gloves, pantomimed an elegant tea party to music. She poured three different colors of tea out of one teapot simultaneously, then magically produced a plate of crumpets to go with the tea.
- 5) Part A) Joe Dobson brought up that passionate lover of card tricks, Eric Dany, to help him with a bit of intuition. Eric dealt out some poker hands, picked one of them and noted one of the cards in that hand. Then he shuffled that hand back into the deck. Joe took five cards from the deck and had Eric use his intuition to guess which, if any of the cards was his. Four times in a row Eric selected a card that was not his. The build up to the last card was worth the wait, as the last card was indeed Eric's. Then Joe dealt out five poker hands, and we found that the cards he dealt to Eric's hand went well with Eric's card, as a straight flush resulted.
- 6) Steve Dulaney performed Annemann's Extra Sensory Perception, correctly divining the item chosen from stacks of cards by his two spectators, accurately drawing the items on a chalkboard.
- 7) Ken Cooper had the audience laughing hard, showing everyone the original Facebook, and the original iPad. You had to see the Facebook, and spectator Carol's face when *she* first saw it. Well done, Ken!
- 8) Tyler Cronin brought out some keepsakes from his grandmother, and told how she was able to link a ring on a chain, even though those familiar with the laws of physics knew this would be impossible. We smiled politely, until Tyler showed us that is exactly what he did! We all learned never to argue with Tyler's grandmother.
- 9) Actually, this is 5) part B. Joe brought up helpers who each silently chose a random number, dealt down that number, and marked the spot with a face up card. Joe showed where they had marked, and removed the cards next to their markers. Then the spectators revealed their numbers. Adding the two together, Joe counted down that new number, and an ace was found. The two cards marked by the helpers also turned out to be aces. Finally, the card Joe had set aside before the trick began turned out to be the fourth ace.
- 10) Actually 9). For our finale, Ken Wilson sat down at the card table and shuffled a deck, asking a variety of people to give him random numbers. Each time the number led to Ken counting down to a card, which was set aside. After this was done four times, Ken turned over the four cards randomly arrived at, and revealed that they were the four aces. Impressive, young Skywalker.

A good time was had by all, and members stayed afterwards to exchange presentations, methods, and other knowledge too secret to be written down here.....

And a final note from Joe:

Hello all. I have been reading the autobiography of John Cleese (*So, Anyway*), and thought the following was a good insight into exactly WHAT we gain from performing a routine over and over for audiences. We always hear that one of the essentials to being a good magician is perform a lot. Here is why...

"Now that I was performing eight times a week, I really had the opportunity to learn more about the rules of comedy, which, of course, are nothing more than the rules of audience psychology. When you are doing only a small number of performances, unless you have had weeks of rehearsal, your attention is primarily directed at remembering what you have to do: not just the words and the movements, obviously, but the emphases, the pauses, the pace, the volume, and then the gestures, the looks, the reactions, and so on. And to the extent that our mind is partially focused on all this remembering, you have less attention available to be "in the moment." **But as the externals of your performance become more automatic, you can go beyond simply "trying to get it right," and relax into a greater awareness of yourself, the other actors and your situation, and that gives your acting an extra degree of freshness and spontaneity. And of course, it also gives you a greater awareness of the audience's laughter. As I've said before, the laughter element is what can often make comedy trickier to perform than straight drama. If you're playing Macbeth you don't have to worry about treading on the laughs. But in comedy it's all too easy to get your timing wrong: listening to the audience enables you to pace your performance correctly.**"