

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

Our October meeting opened with a review of the recent combination flea market/auction which experienced a poor attendance. Only the flea market was somewhat successful. On reflection it seems best to separate the flea market and the auction and have them in different months, and that they need to remain being held on a weeknight, most likely a regular meeting night.

Oct. 13 will be a lecture by Dan Fleshman at the Garden Center.

It was moved and seconded that the names of Eric Dany and Ken Cooper be added as check signers on the checking account.

Joe Dobson asked for a vote on whether to ask **Tom Franks** (cups and balls, etc.) and **Karl Hein** (cards) to be lecturers sometime within the next six months. Separate votes were taken, and it was decided to invite both of them to come.

We will be looking into finding out who the contact persons are for the magic clubs in Peoria, Champaign, and Springfield in order to expand our magical opportunities and events and coordinate activities with them.

Club Shows: 1. Oct. 22: - three walk-around magicians – Ken Wilson, Joe Dobson, Kim Meacham – at the Fall Festival at the First Congregational Church, Moline, 12:30 – 2:00

2. Oct. 22: - the annual Spooktacular at Prospect Park at 4:00 – 5:00. On stage: T. J. Regul, Ken Cooper, Todd Herbst; walk-around: Kim Meacham, Tyler Cronin.

Two new books have been added to the club's library: Joshua Jay's *Book of Cards* with DVD, and *The Magician's Handbook* by Hermann the Great.

Next month:

Snacks: Carol Yodts

Drinks: Ken Brown

Easy-teach-a-trick: Grace Abel

Advanced-teach-a-trick: Kim Meacham

Theme: perform the one trick that has gotten you the best reaction over the years

That theme should make our meeting very fun and interesting next month. Also, be thinking of whom you would like to nominate for next year's officers.

Media report: Kim Meacham gave a thorough report on Roberto Giobbi's *Stand-Up Card Magic*. The book covers a range of aspects of stand-up magic – performing for different size audiences, table and chair arrangements, body language (incl. elbows), regular vs. jumbo cards, how to make up-close magic understandable to the back rows, spectator management, etc. A well-recommended book.

Easy-teach-a-trick: Grace Abel taught us a card trick in which a deck is shuffled and then four random piles are made. More cards from each pile are sent to the other piles, but the final cards on top of the piles are the four aces.

Advanced-teach-a-trick: Ken Wilson taught the 10-card, 2-hand poker deal. After shuffling, a line of ten cards are laid out. Five times a pair of cards is shown to a volunteer, who chooses one of them for himself. Yet the volunteer always ends up with a full house, and the magician with a royal flush.

Performances: Ken Cooper was our MC, posing as a myopic Chinaman with a remarkably good accent.

In keeping with October's Halloween theme, Stu Yager revealed that every deck has a cursed card. A volunteer was asked to find such a card from a spread deck, which was a very wrinkled red five. Another card was chosen, and then the two cards switched – the red five flattened and the chosen card now crumpled.

Brian Lees had a deck shuffled and cut, and a card selected and folded into quarters. Brian then tries to guess what the card is but fails. He then brought out a clear bag full of folded cards and stated that one of these days he would get it right. That bag and that comment brought down the house. Hilarious!

Craig Cox began by presenting a dancing feather on a card. Then he did a Halloween trick involving a story using jumbo cards of a witch and a pumpkin that are supposed to switch places. Finally, the pumpkin becomes a prince, and the witch becomes a frog. Normally, I don't report on magical goofs in performance, but in Craig's case there were a couple of them that are worth mentioning, since it was his comments in recovering from the goofs that were hysterical. At one point, instead of the witch and the pumpkin switching places, he revealed two pumpkins. Craig was somewhat surprised and then in his unflappable way said, "Oh!...Twins!" Then, turning them around he showed two witches – "Another set of twins." Of course, this also threw the story off, forcing Craig to start making it up as he went along. Eventually, a prince and a frog also showed up. We were all busting up laughing. Thanks, Craig, for some good comebacks, and a great lesson in turning mistakes into enjoyable entertainment without losing your cool.

Grace Abel shuffled a deck and produced an ace, then continued shuffling and producing each of the remaining aces. Nice.

Tyler Cronin, using a mysterious foreign accent, dressed as a mad scientist, brought forth a pan in which he placed a rubber ear lobe and a rubber nose. Then he extracted the brain of a volunteer and put that in the pan also and covered it with the lid. When he uncovered it, there was the rubber mask of Frankenstein. Quite ghoulish!

Chuck Hanson brought a packet of 50 cards, each with a word on it, and a sealed envelope with a word inside which was the name of a food. The cards were clues to the sealed card. Three people selected a card from the packet which were 'camera,' 'flash,' and 'smile.' Inside the envelope was the word 'cheese.' Clever.

Finally, Ken Cooper announced that his trick would be more of a practical joke. Borrowing a shoe, he demonstrated how to sneak a cup into a shoe and then pour water into the shoe (actually the cup in the shoe) and surprise someone. However, when Ken poured the water, the cup was not in the shoe. Yet, the shoe was not damaged; no water was found in the shoe.

Next month, don't forget to bring to bring your best trick ever. No turkeys – save those for Thanksgiving.