

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

Our meeting began with a review of recent club shows at First Congregational Church and the annual Spooktacular – all went very well.

Our next lecturer is Karl Hein on Nov. 17 at the Garden Center at 7:00 pm.

We also have a magician for our annual Christmas party – Jeff Bibik. The party is Mon., Dec. 5 with cocktails at 6pm, dinner at 7pm, entertainment at 8pm. There will be five basic entrees from which to choose. Cost: \$15 per person. Reservations need to be made no later than Dec. 1.

Nominations were taken for officers for next year:

President: T J Regul

Vice Presidents: Ken Wilson, Richard Abel

Co-Treasurers: Ken Cooper, Eric Dany

Secretary/Historian: Michael Dyer

Sergeants-at-arms: Grace Abel and Tyler Cronin

Librarian: T J Regul

Elections will be held at our next meeting – Dec. 1. The competition, as you can tell, is staggering.

Next month:

Snacks: Carol Yodts

Drinks: Ken Brown

Media report: T J Regul

Easy-teach-a-trick: Jerry Phillips

Advanced-teach-a-trick: Eric Dany

Theme: take one of the tricks that you learned as a child, and have since improved upon, well enough to perform as an adult

Easy-teach-a-trick: Grace Abel taught us an easy but effective card trick in which Grace chooses a card from the deck to be placed face down on the table. Then a volunteer deals out two piles of cards, and the top cards of each pile turned over. The number of one card and the suit of the other are combined to indicate the specific card that Grace chose, and it matched. Nice.

Advanced-teach-a-trick: We've seen Kim Meacham perform one of his signature tricks, his 'nuts and bolts' trick, several times. It's a version of "one in the pocket, two in the hand." Tonight he taught the routine, which begins by using only nuts, and then a bolt surprisingly shows up, and finally concludes with all the other nuts mysteriously threaded onto the bolt. Great routine. Thanks, Kim.

Performances: With Todd “the Joker” Herbst as our MC, our theme for the night was the presentation of a trick which has brought us the best reaction over the years. Beginning with Jerry Phillips, we were treated once again to his inimitable version of the Chinese sticks in which during the usual routine the tassels of the sticks become extremely long. Hilarious! He finished by promising to fix the sticks with duct tape, and produced a duck covered in tape.

Carol Yodts performed the Australian Shuffle. A deck is divided into four random piles, and a volunteer selects one pile and shows the bottom card. Then the words “Australian Shuffle” are spelled out and applied to the cards by doing a one-down-one-under shuffle. The last card left in the hand was the same card. By the way, this was Carol’s first time performing for the club, and she was calm and self-assured, just like a pro. Great job, Carol – hope to see more.

Craig Cox performed a classic in magic – the umbrella and the scarves. An umbrella is rolled up in a mat. A female volunteer is brought up with “her purse.” After taking out several sight-gags (uneaten hot dog bun, million dollar bill, a light bulb that lights up in Craig’s hand, a half-eaten ice cream bar, etc.), several differently colored scarves are also brought out and put back. A magical pass is made, the purse is reopened, and the umbrella’s silk top is produced while the scarves are now found on the ends of the spokes of the umbrella. The umbrella is placed back in the mat, and the top back in the purse, and again they trade places. Still a great effect, especially with Craig’s humorous additions.

Joe Dobson has done a number of poker tricks over the years. Tonight he demonstrated how to cheat at poker by having his eyes covered by the hands of a volunteer, and yet was still able to remain in control of the four aces. Nice.

Richard Abel produced a black-and-white checked silk out of which emerged smoke and then a silver ball, which he then used in his particular version of the floating Zombie ball. Always fun to watch an old classic.

Michael Dyer performed once again his checker trick. Large wooden checkers are displayed, examined, placed on a spindle and the whole mass passed through two empty cylinders. A book is also passed out for examination – an Edgar Allan Poe book full of scary cockroaches, spiders, and rattlesnake eggs. After the volunteer recovered from the fright, the checker stack was covered with a cylinder, then the book, and then the other cylinder. The checkers mysteriously rose up from the bottom cylinder, through the book, and into the top cylinder. After some bantering, the bottom cylinder was lifted to reveal a glass containing a real chocolate shake to be enjoyed by the volunteer.

Kim Meacham, our sleight-of-hand magician, performed a routine using copper, brass, and silver coins and two cards. Coins would trade places in the hands, and then disappear one-by-one and show up under the cards on the table. Visually stunning!

Ken Wilson, our “mechanical” card magician, demonstrated/performed a card trick, also involving the use of dice to obtain random numbers, and produced an oil-and-water effect.

Chuck Hanson did a ring-and-rope routine, but using small juggler’s rings and a lady’s scarf. The colored rings and the scarf greatly enhanced the visual effect of watching rings and scarf linking and unlinking in various ways. Good routine.

Tyler Cronin placed a ketchup bottle in a paper bag, and after some comedy by-play, finally wadded up the bag and tossed it away. Quick, funny, and effective.

Last was Grace Abel who did a new version of her fan dancing by first magically producing the fans from a scarf.

It's always great to see magicians at their best, and this was one such night. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone, and work on those childhood tricks of yours for next month.