

Quad Cities Magic Club, Ring 11 – April, 2017

In the absence of our president, the meeting was turned over to our very capable vice president, Ken Wilson. First on the evening's agenda were announcements of upcoming events:

April 8, Saturday – Central Illinois Magic Get-Together in Springfield, Ill.

April 20, Thursday – **Alaine Ionnone** – at the Garden Center at 7pm.

AbraCORNdabra in Des Moines on May 19-21.

In light of recent discussions concerning the club's finances, Michael Dyer moved that the club's annual dues be raised from the current \$20 to \$25. This means that a member would have the usual opportunity to the next year's dues between Dec. of this year till the end of the meeting in February of the next year. After that Feb. meeting, the dues for the year will be \$25. It was agreed to table the motion till next month to give members time to consider the matter.

Under old business, there was the tabled motion from March concerning the moving of the annual magic contest from June to August. Chuck Hanson moved, seconded by Jerry Phillips, that the contest be kept in the month of June. Motion carried.

The family of Chuck Hanson has donated \$3000 to the Quad Cities Magic Club in honor of the passing of his son, and one of our members, and also named Chuck Hanson. Our condolences to Chuck and his family, and also our sincere thanks to the family for their generous contribution.

Next month:

Theme: Silk magic

Snacks: Chuck Hanson

Drinks: Ken Cooper

Easy teach-a-trick: Chuck Hanson

Difficult teach-a-trick: T J Regul

Media report: Craig Cox

Media report: Joe Dobson reported on the book *The Vernon Touch*, which is a collection of Vernon's columns over the years for *Genii* magazine. Besides Vernon's many tips on performance and stage presentation, there is a treasure trove of unique stories from Vernon's experience.

For the **easy teach-a-trick**, Ken Wilson demonstrated an easy way for beginners to perform "Coin Squeeze," including an ending involving a large coin under the mat.

For the **hard teach-a-trick**, Richard Abel showed us how to escape out of any standard regulation handcuffs. (If these minutes fall into the wrong hands, I might be mistaken on what I thought I saw and learned, I've never met Richard Abel, and I can't seem to find him in our membership list.)

Performances: To start of the evening, Mike Sampson had a volunteer count off a small packet of cards, while he counted off twenty. Mike then counted down the same number in his packet as the volunteer and there lay a blue card among his red packet. That card matched the card which the volunteer cut to which also matched a card still left in his card case. It was a 1-2-3 punch. Nice.

Joe Dobson removed three different poker chips (\$100, \$50, \$25) from a small packet, and asked a volunteer to touch one. Immediately he revealed that he knew which chip would be picked, as it was printed on the back of the packet.

Craig Cox performed the comedy prediction using an envelope containing four predictions of the choices made by four volunteers – the drawing of a four-legged animal, the Japanese rendition of an English letter of the alphabet, a blank sheet to match a blank mind, and the bar code for any named cereal – actually, the name of the cereal really was on the back of the bar code. Always a hilarious routine.

Kim Meacham did some sleight of hand with a half dollar, and then he brought out an opaque cup and a smaller clear plastic cup that fit inside the other one. One-by-one Kim produced three olives out of nowhere to be used with the two cups in a very different type of cup-and-ball routine, and producing a potato and a lemon at the end as well. Most unusual.

Tyler Cronin caused a bottle cap to appear inside an already capped bottle.

Tim Stolba combined a good ‘ambitious card’ routine with the anniversary waltz trick. The top card was signed on the back with the words ‘top card,’ while the ambitious card was already sticking out of the deck. But the two cards then became one card, signed on both sides.

T J Regul demonstrated the cup and die trick that he does for kids. It worked well for adults, too.

Richard Abel performed his magic routine that he does for preschoolers, which consisted of a number of quick effects – a silk disappeared, a cane became two silks, popcorn seeds placed in a dove pan became popped corn plus a rabbit, coins in the bucket plus a large coin, and crayons disappeared from a crayon case but the colors were picked out of the air and used to turn a black-and-white picture into a colored picture, and more. For those with short attention spans, this was eye-popping. (Any resemblance to the aforementioned Richard Abel is purely coincidental.)

Ken Cooper had a new version of the Pom Pom Stick Magic Trick involving a pipe, a small brick and concrete block, a potato and other items, all held together by key chains. Very 21st century and refreshing to see.

Steve Delaney performed Richard Osterlind’s ‘Check Effect.’ He had a \$20 bill placed in a small envelope along with 19 other numbered envelopes that had a paper inside. They were then mixed. After a volunteer picked various envelopes, the first one chosen was found to contain the bill.

Chuck Hanson portrayed the “senile sorcerer” doing a rope trick using invisible thread. After a bit it became clear that his mimed routine was the “Professor’s Nightmare,” but there was more. The three threads suddenly became a real piece of rope. He then tied it into a regular knot, which you could see was also a ‘square knot,’ since you could see the corners of a square in the knot. This knot he slipped off the rope and showed that it was truly a complete square of rope.

Finally, using a love-and-marriage theme, Ken Wilson had a ring intricately tied onto a rope, which was freed from the rope in an instant. The tied circle of rope was then slipped through the ring and placed over a volunteer's two thumbs and tied on even further. Yet the ring melted through both strands. Nice.

New and unusual routines are always great to see! Such fun! Practice your silk magic for next time.