

Quad Cities Magic Club, Ring 11 – June, 2017

It was the month for our annual magic contest, now known as the Charles Hanson Showcase. There were eight candidates for the first section – Close-Up.

1. Kim Meacham did a nice version of Matrix with four coins, and finished with more coin sleights. Then some magic with cards beginning with four blank cards, an Ace of Diamonds, and four more blank cards. A magic pass and four blanks became AD's, the other four blanks became the rest of a royal diamond flush, and finally the four AD's became the four different aces. In the remaining time Kim presented his routine of the three-sided knife – his version of the color-changing knife.
2. Craig Cox did magic with poker chips that multiplied as well as changed color until there were five, each a different color.
3. Ian Munk had a volunteer shuffle and cut a deck into two piles, a card drawn from one pile and buried in the other pile, and shuffled. After three 'lie or truth' questions, Ian named the card.
4. Richard Abel brought out a deck in its own case and took out one card. This was placed over a shot glass. Then a coin was caused to penetrate the card and fall into the glass. In the meantime the remaining deck had disappeared from its case.
5. Tyler Cronin placed a bunny and a carrot into a box. When opened, the rabbit had disappeared.
6. Grace Abel performed a silent cup-and-ball routine, even wondering and surprising herself as to where the ball had gone at various times.
7. Ken Wilson demonstrated card control by placing a card in the ninth position. After the cards were sorted into four piles, the card was found, and an ace at the top of each pile.
8. Todd Herbst began with a tiny light bulb that lit by itself and floated in the air from his hands into a wine goblet on the table. A card was placed over the mouth of the goblet, but the light rose inside and pushed the card aside and continued rising up to his hand. A black cloth was placed over the empty glass which then floated in air, zombie-style, and back to the table.

The second half of the contest involved stage magic with six contestants.

1. Craig Stevens demonstrated ESP, which he called "extra-sensitive-perception." A volunteer was asked to draw any meaningful picture on a paper on a clipboard. The entire clipboard was then placed in an envelope and clipped shut. Craig then drew a picture on his clipboard which fairly matched the volunteer's.
2. Brian Lees paid a tribute to the late Louis Armstrong. Using a square/circle and the background music to 'What a Wonderful World,' Brian produced many objects corresponding to each of the ones mentioned in each line of the song (a mini-tree, red rose, the wooden word 'sky' in blue, a stuffed cloud, etc.)
3. Richard Abel brought his trick-of-the-month box, and a 'learn together' CD, and performed the comedy routine of the Vanishing Bandana (banana). His version ended by finding another banana in the box.
4. Tristan Hauser did a funny linking ring routine with a volunteer, a la Whit Haydn.

5. Craig Cox also had a CD with instructions to follow, along with a volunteer who signed a \$20 bill. Two empty envelopes marked 'Mine' and 'Yours' were sealed with the \$20 inside 'Mine.' Eventually the Mine envelope was torn up, and the Yours envelope opened with nothing there. The \$20 was found inside the CD's envelope.
6. Finally, Ken Wilson performed his own 'Quad Royale.' After he executed a number of cuts, shuffles, and the up/down division of the cards into what became 20 piles of cards, four rows of five piles each, the top cards were turned over to reveal four royal flushes in proper order.

It was a great contest!