

Quad Cities Magic Club, Ring 11 – July, 2017

Ah, the joys of the annual July magic picnic: great food (catered and homemade), magic awards, and an evening magic show. This year's winners were:

Close-Up: 1st place – Todd Herbst, 2nd – Grace Abel, 3rd – a tie between Kim Meacham and Richard Abel.
Stage: 1st – Tristan Hauser, 2nd – Craig Beytien, 3rd – another tie between Ken Wilson and Brian Lees.
Congratulations to all the winners!

With Mark Yeager as our warm and engaging MC, the evening's program began with magic of Craig Cox who placed a bottle of OJ in a sack, and then produced a bottle of Coke – OJ gone. Then he presented six cards, on each of which are listed a number of everyday items and their prices. A volunteer selects an item from each card, their prices added up, and the total matches a prediction contained in an envelope from the beginning.

Next, Eric Dany brought forth a basket with a snake inside and a deck of letter cards. One is chosen and placed into the basket. He played a flute, the snake rose up, but without the card. Back down went the snake, followed suddenly by a card shower springing out of the basket. Again, the flute was played and the snake rose again, this time with the selected card in its mouth.

Jerry Philips showed an empty foulard out of which he produced a bouquet of spring flowers, a rubber chicken, a streamer, and some linked sausages.

Chuck Hanson told a story of a father and son that involved the drawing of a pig on a chalk board whose body was square. When the son was asked if he could turn the pig round, the pig's triangular head turned (a)round to look back at its tail. Pure midwestern corn.

Todd Herbst presented his Alice in Wonderland routine. Since the White Rabbit is always running late, a clock face was shown and everyone asked to choose one of the numbers. Todd gave spelling directions going around the clock and everyone ended on the 1. Since it was an Unbirthday Party, sugar was poured into a teacup using a shaker, but it disappeared from the cup. Then the White Rabbit went missing, only to find that the paper hat on a volunteer had become the rabbit. Next, to the rose garden where the queen wants to paint the roses red. From a bouquet of white roses, the blossoms are plucked and placed in a box from which they immediately disappear. The bouquet then visibly grows new red blossoms. Finally, the volunteer "Alice" is placed in neck stocks and a sword run through it, but the Todd, the Mad Hatter, saves her. Very entertaining routine.

Ian Munk had four volunteers choose a card from the deck. The cards are placed within each of four piles and the deck reassembled. The four cards are then found, each in a different way.

Grace Abel did her award-winning cup-and-ball routine with her usual charm and 'grace.'

Ken Cooper used a wand to continually produce red balls from his mouth, with a final booger ball from his nose, and a black one from ('ahem') somewhere else.

Michael Dyer did balancing moves with a coin on edge on a playing card, but the juggling became magical when the coin lay down and rose up by itself.

The evening ended with another great card trick by Ken Wilson as only he can do.

Thanks to all who performed, start thinking and planning for next year when we'll see you again for another great magical picnic.