

Magic Musings

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 29
8912 Stagecoach Road #11, Little Rock, AR 72210 (501) 455-6242
Meets 1st Thursday of nearly every month @ Baptist Medical Center



Visit our website: www.littlerockmagic.org

July 2005

July 7th Meeting "Card Mania"

News from the Ring

*July meeting will be held at Baptist Hospital in the Sheffield Auditorium at 6:30pm. The theme will be "Card Mania". Several of our ring members, Chris Westfall, Sid Salmans, Jim Henson, will be demonstrating and teaching different card effects such as palming, lifts, and basic card manipulation. Come support Ring 29 at our next meeting.

*As you know, we hold our annual Ring 29 auction in April however due to so many items to auction, there will be a short auction to start out many of our meetings throughout the year. For July, we will auction off ten items; the first person(s) to contact Gerry Bailey at clown1941@hotmail.com or call 501-310-5011 will be able to have their items to auction.

*Chuck Rubey lectured for Ring 29 in June with "Black and Red Card Magic". Twenty-six were in attendance.

*A unanimous vote was taken at the June meeting to accept the Ring 29 Officer incumbents for the 2005-2006 year.
President- Don Baer

Vice-President- Christy Henson
Secretary- Chris Westfall
Treasurer- James Kinsey
Sergeant at Arms- Gerry Bailey

*The Officer Installation Banquet will be held Thursday July 21 at Grampa's Southern Catfish House (across the street from Mr. Magic) at 6:30pm. Dinners range in price \$6.49-\$12.49 and fish and chicken will be available. There will be a magic performance as well. Please contact Christy at cih0914@aol.com, James at jamesk39@swbell.net or the magic shop 501-455-6242 with the number of those planning to attend by July 16.

*August 9th will be an innovative lecture by Wild Magic. More info. will be given in the August newsletter.

*September meeting will be on the 1st. The theme will be "Back to School" Magic.

*The Annual Ring 29 Picnic is tentatively set for Sunday afternoon, September 18. More details will follow in upcoming newsletters.

* Dues are now due! Dues are \$15 until August 1 when they

then become \$20. You may send your dues to James Kinsey at: 8901 Merryman Rd., Sherwood, AR 72120 or you may bring your dues to the magic shop.

*The board has decided to contact each member of Ring 29 during the next two months to find out your personal interests in magic and what you would like to see at the ring meetings. So be expecting a call or an email.

*Ring 29 has sponsored a Junior Magicians Program in the past. It is being planned to start again in September where those under 18 will gather and talk and share magic. If you know a junior magician or one who is interested in doing magic, please have them contact Christy at cih0914@aol.com for more info.

Member News:

*News from Pam Medrez: I will be performing for three hours (ventriloquism, walk-a-round magic and balloon sculpturers) at Regions Bank on Capitol and Broadway on June 22. Wal-Mart's SuperCenter Arcades

has hired me for three days at the end of the month to promote there business in Searcy, Conway and Jacksonville. In between times, I have been having a great time doing singing telegrams and shows for local day cares. This seems to be one of my very best years. Having a great time. Bought a new bird puppet from Mr. Magic and I plan to bring it to the next meeting so I can get some suggestions for names. Pam aka Mommy Magic and Patriotic Annie.

*Maxwell Blade's Theater of Magic is now open in Hot Springs. It is mostly a new show so you will want to see it. Be sure to call for reservations.

*Joey Williams spent a month in Germany and found several opportunities to entertain others with magic. Look for his report in this newsletter.

* Jimmy Rhodes performed a stage show for a festival in McCrory, AR on June 17. He performed his well-known Signed Paintball in Mouth routine.

*Emails are sent throughout each month to remind or update members of events. If you have not joined the yahoo group email, please follow the following instructions. There is no cost to joining this group email. It will benefit you in keeping you informed of the goings-on in Ring 29. Instructions: Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>. Under find group enter

“ring29report” (without quotes), select it from the list and click the “Join this group” and follow the instructions. This is the best way we have found to keep in touch with each other since a single email sent out to several addresses is often blocked before it even gets to your mailbox by your ISP. And as we have found out you can even get your internet service suspended by some providers if you send a email with over a certain number of addresses. Please join so you don't miss out on any of our activities.

*Mr. Magic will be open Mondays- Saturdays during the summer. Don Baer will be there Mondays, Greg Maxwell on Tuesdays, Joey Williams on Wednesdays and Jim the rest of the week.

* Several Ring 29 members will be off to Reno to the I.B.M. Convention. They will surely have some great info to share about the Convention at eh July meeting. Those attending: Mike and Deedee Curtis, Vernon Hallum, Jeffrey O'Connell, Ernie and Wilma Staggs, Jim Henson, and Christy Henson.

Magic In Europe By Joey Williams

On the morning of May 14, 2005 I had the great privilege of traveling to Germany with a selected few from Hendrix College for a 12 day adventure through two selected cities. We spent the first five days in the charming and ancient city of

Mainz. After the stay at Mainz, we hoped a train four hours north to the tiny village of Quakenbruck. In Quakenbruck, we were split up into 8 different host families where we stayed for one week. Although the many stories are worth telling, this article has to eventually flow into the topic we all love and enjoy...magic.

After the scheduled trip, I separated with my group and traveled to Berlin where I stayed for an additional 2 weeks. While my awesome stay in Berlin, I discovered a little magic shop. Freer's Zauberlanden was of course a very small costume and magic shop located in the *very* far outskirts of the city. After visiting the shop numerous times, I decided to ask about the magic community in Berlin and Germany. Oliver, the owner of the shop mentioned to me that there was a Magic Circle meeting next week and asked if I was interested in coming along. Of course I jumped on the invitation with great enthusiasm.

When the day of the meeting zoomed up on me, I met Oliver at the shop and we rode together into downtown East Berlin where the meeting was being held. (A little aside: Germans drive incredibly fast and I was clutching the side of the door the entire time while carrying on a friendly conversation) When we arrived to the location, we waited on other magicians outside. When all the others arrived, we preceded climb what seemed to me about thirty flights of stairs to a tiny room where the

meeting was held. The thing that really struck me as amazing was that magicians in other countries are just as crazy as magicians in our club! This club even had its Bob Owens which everyone always picked on!

The theme of the meeting was Pendulum Magic. There were very good ideas and great magic performed that night. I will give you one of many illusions performed that night. One illusion performed used 4 cards. The spectator was given a pendulum and asked to wave it over every card until a particular card gave some kind of impression. When a card was chosen at the will of the spectator, the pendulum was then opened to reveal a prediction of the chosen card!

I must say that the language barrier was not as bad as I thought it would be. Every magician spoke great English and would constantly stop and ask me if I understood what was going on. There was only one misunderstanding the entire night. Someone beside me asked if I would stand up. So I stood up. It turns out that he asked if *I understood*. I didn't understand his English but was a funny moment for everyone including myself. After about two hours the meeting was over. One of the magicians then opened up a big bag of metal puzzles and passed them out to everyone at the meeting. Everyone at the meeting knew how to conquer the puzzles except for me which was a perfect time for them to make fun of me for about an hour. It was all in good fun! Other then

that everything went great and everyone was very friendly.

Other News

*IBM Ring 194 (Huntsville, AL) is hosting this year's Southeastern

Association of Magicians' Annual Convention on August 4-6th.

This convention is known for the unique camaraderie of its faithful followers and is often the first convention many of us attend. The convention is located on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville and includes some of the following booked talent: Bruce Amato - Kid Show & Close-up

Michael Baker - Innovative Standup and Close-up
Mike Caveney - Not sure...heard he was pretty good...

Russell Davis - Noted Southeastern area close-up performer

Emory Kimbrough - Juggler
Tom Ladshaw - Vent/Magician/Dealer/Comedian/

Charles Pecor - Mentalism & Close-up (Yeh, you read that last one correctly!)

John Tudor - Stage Magic/Actor
Additional Lecturer and Performer TBD (currently negotiating with a couple of world-class recognizable performers to fill the remaining slots...check web site later for announcement)

For those of you unfamiliar with the talent, it is a good cross section of performer/lecturers; for those of you familiar with

the talent, expect to be surprised by what some of them are doing for the convention! Check www.SEAM2005.info for more convention information. Performer/Lecture profiles will be posted mid-June...

* Going to Branson this summer??? There are many magic shows going on there. Darren Romeo is at the Welk Resort Theater (Jim and Brenda Henson saw him last week and thought he did an outstanding job. He has been performing in Reno but will be in Branson throughout the rest of this year.) Brett Daniels and Kirby Van Birch have combined their shows and are performing at the Grand Palace. Tom Mullica as Red Skeleton is at the Music City Centre. David Copperfield is finishing his time in Branson on June 26 following two weeks of performing. The illusionists Hamners and Jim Barber comedian and puppeteer are at the Hamner Barber Theater. Tracts for each of these shows are available at Mr. Magic.

*Internet Magic Radio Station-They broadcast sessions on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays. They review old and new tricks and interview magicians. There will be a live broadcast from Reno during the I.B.M. convention.

Check out their website: www.magicbroadcast.com

ADDITION TO BANQUET ACTIVIES

Also there will be a Broken Wand Ceremony to honor the

life and passing of Dr. Henry Johnson.

**Member of the Month:
Don Baer**



The time was getting short for the July's interview for the news letter. I had made several calls to make an appointment for the interview, only to find that this person was very busy, either in church or doing a show. I found out that he was going to be in same spot for at least 6 or 7 hours. I walked into Mr. Magic there he was reading a catalog, MR. Don the Magician, Patches the Clown, The Great Waldo, better known as Don Baer. Here is what you may or may not know.

In 1978 while attending the Arkansas State Fair he purchased a bag of balloons and a book from Col. Frank Seymour. Later he returned to Col. Seymour and started his magic lessons for 2 ½ years learning the trade from the master. He learned the principles and the art of entertainment from the Col. Which he still uses today. He credits Bob Owen and Jon Bucher as his mentors who encouraged him. Starting out as a part time magician and moving to Semi

Pro, now as a Full Time Professional Magician. Doing Birthday Parties, Company Picnics, Christmas Parties, Festivals, and Children's Crusade in churches. The Riverfest is his most prominent and publicized activity having participated in all but the first one. Now doing MC duties at the Children's Festival. In the interview I confirmed what we all know about Don, he loves to make people laugh, and is very fond of entertaining the younger generation. This is obvious when ask what his favorite routine, his response was the Boy to Magician, where he takes a boy and girl from the audience and changes the boy to a Magician, then making a silk disappear and all the time creating laughing and giggles. He also does about 60 plus balloon Cartoon characters and animals. Working at Western Sizzlin, and Pizza Hut as Mr. Don the magician uses the balloon to encourage the kids. If the kids get straight "A"s, Read 5 books bring in the titles, and authors name, and on birthdays he makes them their favorite Cartoon Character. Don's main venue is Parlor and Restaurant Magic, however he does do some stage performing should the occasion arise. Gospel Magic is also part of his venue, as he is very active his church and is expected to do a magic show each year at the Easter Egg Hunt. His first show was for his Nephew's Birthday Party at an Ice Cream Parlor and his Sister gave him a few bucks, and that started the journey to today.

His has only three words of advice for new magicians: practice, practice and practice. His other words of wisdom are to try every thing, close-up, parlor, or stage. Then when you find your niche then focus on that one thing. His focus in the parlor magic and entertaining kids and family, Scott Davis for example is Stage Magic, and Derrick Rose is Comedy Magic, Maxwell Blade does Illusions. Don also encourages every one to attend workshops, lectures, or any other form of continuing education. Don has been a member of the IBM, and the Local Ring 29 and is the President of the Ring. As President of Ring 29 his goals are, increase the membership, to find out what format the membership would like for the meetings. His idea is to keep the business meeting to a minimum and encourage everyone to participate in the fun part of the meeting, MAGIC. No matter what level of experience you are, be prepared to do something and use the experience at the club meeting to critique and give suggestions to improve.

We will all look forward to seeing Don perform at the next meeting.

Written by
Gerry Bailey
Sergeant-at-arms

We need your news!
If you are performing or
have information to pass on
to the club email:
Cih914@aol.com or
Jamesk39@swbell.net