

The
PERFORMER



Little Rock Magic Ring 29
Newsletter

October 2023

Editor: Marty Haughn



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LITTLE ROCK MAGIC RING 29

It's all about the Magic...



L-R: Paul Carlon, Blayk Puckett, Richard Knoll, Gene Berry, Farmer Fin, Tom Burgoon, Randall Eller, Daniel Parrish, Jody Birchfield, Founder/CEO of Feed the Vets Deyonka Hickey, Marty Haughn

BENEFIT SHOW SUPPORTING FEED THE VETS

I'll be honest, we could have done better but given the weekend we chose, there were too many options for people to choose from for entertainment. Having said this, we still did fairly well raising money for FEED THE VETS. To those whose charitable contributions pushed us along, we thank you very much.

I am sure you will hear comments about the show. Every comment I heard was positive and folks were saying how well things were put together. For that we need to thank Blayk Puckett, Marty Haughn, Mary Ann Campbell and Randall Eller. These individuals made up the committee who arranged for performers, venue, sponsors, ticket, flyer and program creation. Also, two radio announcements on KKPT The Point 94.1's Morning Show with Rick and Steph made by Marty Haughn and Deyonka Hickey (Founder/CEO of FTV). Both spoke about the pantry and show to listeners. Thank you Rick Steel for your support. [\(read more on page 9\)](#)

Meeting Information

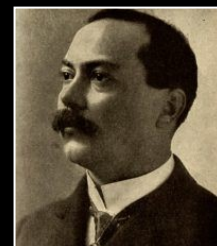
ESTATE AUCTION
 November 2, 2023
 Henson Home #2
 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

December Ring 29
 Christmas Party TBD
 Annual Show January 13
 Jacksonville Community Center

"Whatever you do, do it with all your might. Work at it, if necessary, early and late, in season and out of season, not leaving a stone unturned, and never deferring for a single hour that which can be done just as well now."

- Alfred T. Ringling -



President's Report

Dane Dover

Have you ever?

As I was thinking about the Magic community, I was wondering have you ever?

In recent conversations with other magicians the topic of have you ever comes up.

Have you ever?

Performed for a child's birthday party? I have performed at many kid's parties and each one is different and fun. When my son was turning 7 or 8 I did a show at his birthday party, since it was special and I wasn't going to have to pack stuff in and pack it back out I decided to do some things I don't normally do at kids parties. I decided to do candle through the arm (little did I know that it would scare these "rough and tumble" boys but I could tell by watching their faces that it did. I had to show them everything was good and I was unharmed (guess that's why we don't do arm choppers at birthday parties).

Entered a magic competition? One of the best ways to improve on something is to have a deadline. While the Cavalcade is not a competition I usually perform in the close up show and of course there is a deadline as the show doesn't wait so it gives me an opportunity to work on something with some intensity.

Built a magic prop? In a recent Popular Woodworking issue there are plans for a "magic drawer box". The plans were submitted by Lupe Neilson (Norm Neilson's wife) I'm in the process of building one.

Mastered a sleight? I was listening to a podcast recently and heard a magician talking about working a sleight for a year and then spending another year perfecting the sleight. I'm not sure I believe it but supposedly it is possible to learn anything if you put your mind and attention to it. (I gave up on back palming cards long ago, I can do one card, but that is it.

Performed on the street?

Performed Mentalism?

Done table hopping at a restaurant?

Performed at a sweet 16 party?

Performed for a business group?

Been in a variety show?

Failed at a magic trick? (Ok that one was a nod to the last meeting, I'll let you guess who)

The list goes on and on. Each of us are driven by the simple phrase "Have you ever"?

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

Little Rock Magic Ring 29 met at Terry Library on October 5, 2023, presided by President Dane Dover. Our business meeting consisted of a huge thank you to Mary Ann Campbell and Dr. Chris Westfall for locating and securing the meeting room on a more permanent basis. The Ring has been a bit of a Nomad since COVID in regard to where we meet. Dane then asked the members to vote via email to Secretary Marty Haughn as to whether or not this location works for everyone. As of this writing, there have been no negative emails. Just at the end of our business meeting, Sid Salmons and Mike Curtis walked in and was greeted with the "You are late applause", all in fun, of course.

Business was closed and we proceeded to an evening of magic. The theme tonight was "Spooky Magic", or at least bring something to perform or teach.

Dan Hecke was up first with an interesting tale about Sherlock Holmes. Showing a thick hardbound book of said detective, Dan talked about a story regarding a stone, "The Carbuncle Stone" which was stolen. Will Ketcher played the role of Sherlock and was adorned with a cap, pipe and magnifying glass. He was also given the stone to hold. Dan brought out a cloth and wrapped the stone inside. Before Will could digest what had happened, the stone was gone! Dan continued the story as he removed a paper bundle. He unfolded each piece carefully until the last one was open. Will looked inside and saw nothing. The bundles were then closed. When the story was almost complete, Dan reopened the paper bundles only to show the stone had appeared inside!

Secretary, Marty Haughn was next with a repeat performance requested by those who had not seen this routine. Marty displayed several items on the table. They were, two candles stuck in wood, a box of matches (one match, thanks Dane!), a sketch pad, pencil, voodoo doll and a stick pin sporting a pink feather. Carla, Will's girlfriend was asked to assist along with Janie Nicholson and were seated on either side of the table. Both candles were lit and Marty told a little history of how Voodoo, as we know it today, came to be. First, he drew a voodoo doll (more like a gingerbread man) on the paper. He handed Janie the pencil first to wave through the flame and then place an X anywhere on the drawn voodoo doll. Marty took the needle, heated it a bit then stuck it into the X. He then took the pencil and began drawing lines in every direction. The needle followed in every direction. The process was repeated with Carla with better movement results. I guess she had the best JUJU!

Jon Bucher stepped to the table next and took a seat. He was holding a large Crown Royal bag containing three copper cups. Yes, you guessed it, a cups and balls routine, BUT, not just ANY cups and balls routine! Jon has perfected a Gene Gordon routine called "Rub-A-Dub". Jon says he has been doing this routine since being a member of Ring 1 during the 70's. Now, normally the routine would consist of three balls. Since it was Spooky Magic night, Jon chose to use three miniature skulls! Very nice touch Jon. It was very obvious Jon had been doing this cute routine for some time. Jon is a crowd favorite.

Is there a doctor in the house? Dr. Chris Westfall never fails to mesmerize the crowd. This month he wanted to do a little teach-in on the French Drop and gave everyone a nickel to use. Chris stated he wanted to share some subtleties of the move to help everyone improve their French Drop. He began with the basic handling of his half-dollar by pinching the coin edges between the thumb and middle finger of the non-dominant hand. Chris also demonstrated the proper positioning of the hand so as to make the most of the drop. Next came the use of our dominant hand. As the thumb passed through the coin tunnel he said to bump the thumb so as to release the

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

coin into the non-dominant hand to be palmed. Chris pointed out several angles which would prove useful in hiding the drop and also described what you as the performer should be looking at during that time. There were several great tips shared and I believe everyone, including the laymen, learned something.

Treasurer, James Kinsey was next and presented a deck of cards. While he was talking to his assistant, Jan Hecke, he removed the Jokers and placed them on the table. During his instructions James had Jan select a card then sign it. Once signed she placed it face down on the deck. Next, Jan took a Joker and placed it face up on her card as well as the second Joker. Before you knew what was happening, James spread the deck which exposed the Jokers...BUT, in between them was one face down card, it was Jan's signed card. Nice routine of "Monkey in the Middle".

Hard working magician, Derrick Rose was next. He needed two volunteers and asked Janie and Joel Nicholson for assistance. He first asked Joel to select a card and Joel selected the Queen of Hearts then signed the face and inserted into the deck. Janie was then asked to do the same. By chance? Janie selected the King of Hearts then signed her name on the face and inserted into the deck. There was some shuffling and cutting when Derrick spread the cards to find Joel's card face up in the deck. It was then removed and when the reverse of the card was shown it had Janie's signature on it. Very well done "Anniversary Waltz".

Will Ketcher wasn't prepared to perform but asked to borrow a deck of cards and did a quick trick. He asked Janie Nicholson to just think of a card and then choose a number between 1 and 10. Choosing 7, Janie was asked if it would be crazy if her card was the seventh card in the deck. Of course, it would have been shocking...AND IT WAS! Now, how in the world did he do that?! Very well done Will.

Bob Bullock stepped up to the front and immediately displayed a coin only to have it go through is trouser leg. It happened so quick he was asked to do it again. He obliged and the coin went through the trouser leg as before. The coin was then held by thumb and index finger. Using his other hand to pass in front of the coin, it changed to a Chinese looking coin! Repeating the move it went back to the silver coin. Back and forth several times with no indication of an exchange.

We closed the meeting with Jim Henson and Mike Curtis doing their normal business. Jim had brought in some estate items to silent bid on. Proceeds went to the widows. Thanks Jim.

Until next time,

Stay Safe, Healthy and Magical

Marty

Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis

This month we will go back 11 years to the Ring meeting of October, 2014. The President at that time was Aaron Acosta and the Secretary was Bob White. The Ring met monthly at Shuffled auditorium in Little Rock. During the October 2 business meeting conducted by President Aaron Acosta, a discussion was held concerning a new meeting place, new popular television shows and movies about magic, and the Penn & Teller show in Memphis. Dennis Schick talked about the Weekend of Wonder in Hot Springs.

MC Cedric Morley told funny, but corny, jokes about Halloween between every performance. Yak Williams, a visiting magician from Ring 325 in Branson, Missouri, began the evening of magic by performing "Gem Clear" and a version of "Three in the Hand and One in the Pocket" with a nut and screw. Judy Martin, with the assistance of Armilda Morley, performed a magic trick for the first time. She was able to match all ESP symbols correctly. We appreciated her participation in the magic portion of our meeting.

The president of Ring 325 in Branson, Morris Robert, presented "Lord of the Rings" with multiple predictions, using a ring box and cards with pictures. Paul Hyland of the Wessex Magical Association in England performed his version of "Ribbon Development." He was assisted by Dennis Schick and Christy McKinsey. Jim Henson, using a skeleton puppet with a jester's hat, had Jane Bundy (Paul Hyland's wife) select a card, which was comically found. Jim also performed the "Vamp" card trick, the "Haunted House," and "No Ghost Run," which is a rare effect. Aaron Acosta, with the help of Tyler Bass, performed several versions of "Static." He also performed "Souvenir Linking Rubber Band" with the help of Judy Martin. Cedric Morley performed a Halloween trick, using the Potato Head concept and four audience members, who chose cards that had the facial features of a pumpkin. There were three sacks containing spiders and one sack containing the pumpkin prediction.

The evening ended with Jim Henson passing out numbers to each person. The numbers corresponded to magic tricks. This was done with the idea of gaining more participation at the Ring meetings and other Ring activities. We want to thank "Mr. Magic" for donating the items given away. Thanks to the visitors who came from Branson, Missouri and Wessex, England. Come visit when you are in the area. You can call Mr. Magic at (501) 455-6242 for time and location.

The meeting started off with a familiar theme of discussing where the Ring would meet in the future. The Ring has moved around to several locations. Fortunately each time it had to move there was always a place provided. Jim Henson has graciously opened his doors many times as the Ring sought a regular meeting place. Most recently, the Ring met at the Terry Library and is considering it as a "new home."

Regardless of where the Ring meets, the magic continues as it did back in 2014. That night we were honored to have guests from Ring 325 in Branson and even one from Wessex, England. It is always good to have visiting magicians with us to share in the magic.

Until next time, remember, according Mother Theresa, "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

October Performers



October Performers



FEED THE VETS

BENEFIT VARIETY SHOW

Ring 29 hosted and produced a fantastic show to raise money for FEED THE VETS food pantry. This is a Veteran Only food pantry serving Central Arkansas Veterans.

The lineup for the show was outstanding which consisted of Magic, Mentalism, Comedy, Music, and Juggling. If you missed this one you missed a great show. Here is a short run-down of what happened.

Jody Birchfield from Ring 75 was the emcee for the evening. If you know Jody he is pretty comical and full of gags and jokes. Jody did an outstanding job performing his duties as emcee. Thanks Jody for making the trip and volunteering your time!

Daniel Parrish kicked off the show with a tape-covered mouth and used cue cards to speak for him. A card was selected and through comedy and some fun, removed the tape and exposed a card predicting what was chosen. The comedy and mentalism didn't stop there. He had three volunteers select a song from a bag. He then went to trying to figure out the chosen song and expressed his answer with some beat-box. Thanks Daniel for volunteering your time!

Gene Berry bounced out onto the stage keeping up the energy of the audience. He began with the ping pong ball nose catch and balance. When exposed the audience loved it! He then began the story of him beginning in magic when young. With a cardboard box set on a table and cards in hand, Gene began a very funny six-card repeat delighting the audience. He kept the audience laughing and bewildered with his mix of magic, comedy and just plain fun! Thanks Gene for volunteering your time!

Local comedy musician Farmer Fin came out with her guitar and treated the audience with a song by Dolly Pardon followed by some comedy and music mixed. Fin then began a song with some yodeling. Her aim was to teach the audience how and started out slow. Over the course of several speed variations the yodeling got to be pretty fast! Quite entertaining and loads of fun. Thanks Fin for volunteering your time!

Not to be outdone, everyone's favorite juggler came out and performed his "World Famous" tennis ball juggling! Set to music the tennis balls AND container moved with the beat of the music. Difficult to say the least but Blayk made it look easy. He then explained where cigar

FEED THE VETS

BENEFIT VARIETY SHOW

box juggling originated and commenced to demonstrate what it looked like. Even more difficult and set to music as well. Thanks Blayk for volunteering your time!

We then took a short intermission to let everyone recover and refresh themselves. Jim Mr Magic Henson was working some backroom sales of small simple magic for folks to purchase. All the proceeds from his sales went to FEED THE VETS. Jim and his generosity never ceases to amaze. Thanks Jim!

After intermission, Jody came back out and had some fun with the audience to get them back into the mood. Next performer introduced was another crowd favorite, Randall Eller, with an unusual and dangerous illusion, "Torn and Restored Newspaper". Well, he started with it anyway. After wowing the audience with his paper repairing skills Randall introduced a story about him and his Mother along with a large framed silhouette image of himself. Next, Randall retrieved some help from a young man named Harley. Harley was then shown a cross-bow, instructed NOT to aim it at the audience and how to use it. He was then given the opportunity to choose one of three colored arrows. Eventually, all three were shot, 1 at lower back, 1 at bum and the third in the head. Randal then pointed out an envelope hanging nearby and inside was a prediction which matched the hits and locations! Thanks Randall for volunteering your time!

Our final act and headliner, Tom Burgoon was introduced and began his zany and wildly funny set. Tom immediately had the audience laughing. He began with stating no magician would dare explain his next trick. He brought out a cup with a little water inside. Dipping his fingers in the water several time to get the "tune" right, he began running his fingers around the rim. Suddenly, there was noise. Tom was making the cup sing. It was at this point he stopped rubbing the rim and the noise continued. Tom played the audience with this noise by changing the tone while moving the cup.

If you know Tom and his antics on stage you know it did not end here. His gags continued with borrowing a quarter from one of the Veteran volunteers. We didn't see that quarter again for some time. He then began searching for that perfect kid assistant and found a good one. On stage Tom explained we all had static electricity inside us. To prove this he demonstrated that he could hold a spoon on his nose without using his hand. Then, to prove his point even

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BENEFIT VARIETY SHOW

further, his assistant was asked to do the same, without success. A balloon was brought out, blown up and then rubbed vigorously on the kid's head. Hair going every which direction, Tom then started attaching spoons all over the boy's upper body.

Continuing with the same child he asked him to assist with some balloons and a bag. The boy was asked to remove a balloon after Tom had removed a yellow balloon. Of course, the gag was each time he reached in, out came another yellow balloon. I love this routine as did the audience. Plenty of laughs and gags.

I believe one of the more surprising, if not shocking, gag that occurred was during Tom's "Professor's Nightmare" routine. As the ropes went from different lengths to being the same to a long rope with a piece in his pocket to needing to be turned into one length of rope. In order to accomplish that he requested the assistance again from his young assistant. Tom went into the audience to find him, asked for the young man to spit on the ropes. Although hesitant and wanting to remain polite, it took some convincing on Tom's part to get him to spit. When he did Tom went to the stage expressing how gross it was and then threw the ropes at the lid of his case. When the ropes hit the case they stuck! Of course this got the audience howling again.

To close out his set Tom had a young lady from the audience to help with a funny "Chinese Linking Rings" routine. No matter what she did the volunteer was never able to link the rings together unless Tom was involved. Classic linking rings with a Tom Burgoon touch of class and humor. And then it happened...

Timmy Toilet Paper was introduced! This took the audience by surprise when Tom seemed to make the roll of paper, marked with two eyes above the hole, when he squished the roll making the "mouth" make another expression. He asked the young lady to peel off two lengths of paper. Tom took one and asked her to follow along by wading up the paper and then stuffing it into her mouth. Tom complied but she was definitely not going to do it. Eventually, Tom began pulling out the paper asking her to grab the end and head for the audience. She walked out about twenty-five feet and was told to stop. Remember that quarter? Well, it was at the end of the length of paper, removed and tossed back to its donor!

Tom closed the show with some poetry he writes for magicians.

Thank you so much Tom for making the trip from Kansas City and volunteering your time!

Jody Birchfield



Daniel Parrish



Gene Berry



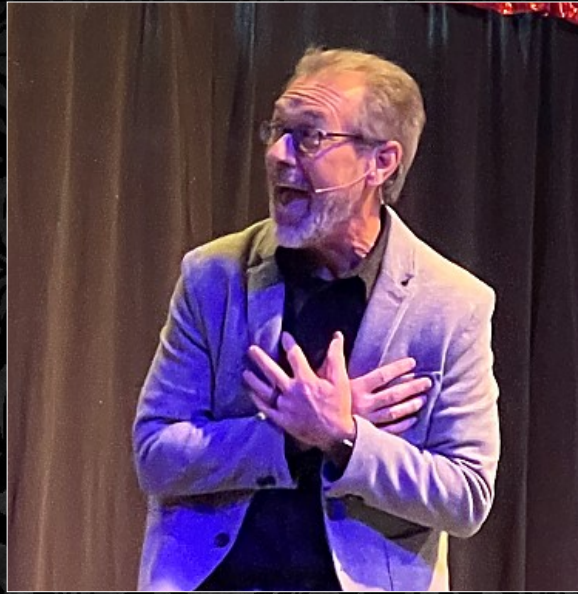
Farmer Fin



Blayk Puckett



Randall Eller



Tom Burgoon



Schedule of Events

2023

Date	Meeting Location	Theme	Lecturer	Host/Emcee
January 13, 2024	7:00 p.m. Jacksonville Community Center	Annual Christmas Show	N/A	
February	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
March	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
April	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
May	Terry Library 2015 Nappa Valley Drive		N/A	
June	Stagecoach Clubhouse	Officer Installation	N/A	Larry Bean
July	TBA		N/A	
August	TBA		N/A	
September	TBA		N/A	
October	TBA		N/A	
November 2	Henson Home #2	Auction	N/A	Marty Haughn
December 8	Ring 29 Christmas Party Stagecoach Clubhouse	Best of the Best	N/A	Dane Dover

* The clubhouse address: 100 Stagecoach Village, Little Rock, Arkansas.

These are our normal meeting gatherings. Any additional activity throughout the month will be listed on the website beginning in August.

*IBM Little Rock Magic Ring 29
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All members of Ring 29 must first be a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. I.B.M. Applications can be obtained from http://www.magician.org/membership_application.pdf.

Contact Mr. Magic or any Ring 29 Officer for information on joining the IBM or Ring 29.

Mailing Lists

In addition to this newsletter Members can receive last minute email information on meetings, events, and lectures. If you wish to be added to our email list, please contact *Treasurer Col. James Kinsey*.

www.littlerockmagic.net or www.littlerockmagic.org

Our website has been filled with a wealth of information to assist our members and potential members. New features are being added daily. Check out the Ring 29 Highlights video, the Magicians for Hire page, or the Ring 29 Event Calendar.

Using Ring 29 Email Group

To be added to our email group, contact James Kinsey or Marty Haughn

We now use GOOGLE GROUPS for our email service.

Ring 29 is proud to endorse and support Little Rock's world class Magic Vendor, "Mr Magic"
Mr. Magic is owned and operated by retired Fire Chief Jim Henson and is a primary contact for Ring 29.

Mr. Magic (Jim Henson)

501-580-2860