

The **PERFORMER**



Little Rock Magic Ring 29 *Newsletter*

May 2024

Editor: Marty Haughn



In the News
President's Corner
For the Record
Blast from the Past
Photo Gallery
Event Calendar



LITTLE ROCK MAGIC RING 29

It's all about the Magic...



Little Rock Ring 29 hosted an evening of magic lessons to all who signed up at Terry Library. Nineteen students were present and eagerly watched Jim "Mr. Magic" Henson demonstrate then explain about 12 different types of magic. Then, students were broken into small groups and assigned an instructor to go through the finer details of each trick. The Ring hopes the class inspires local folks to want to learn more and possibly become a future member of Ring 29. Instructors: I/r - Dane Dover, Patrick Taft, Jim Henson, Mary Ann Campbell, Bob Bullock and Blayk Puckett. A huge thank you to all who volunteered to spend their time sharing their craft in hopes of sparking the life into a new magician. Future classes may become available at other libraries.



Meeting Information

Officer Installation
June 6, 2024 - 6:30
Stagecoach Clubhouse

Upcoming Events

Meeting July 11, 2024
Meeting August 1, 2024
Meeting September 5, 2024

"Don't be a magician - Be magic!"
- Leonard Cohen -



President's Report

Dane Dover

How many different locations have you lived in? I have lived in quite a few different locations houses/apartments, etc. Some great, some not so great but each one is etched into my mind. What about jobs? How many different jobs have you had?

I like changing locations. I sometimes will go somewhere other than the office to work just so I can change locations. I, however, am not alone as I go to various coffee shops, I see people that are working on their laptops. In this high-tech world that we live in, depending on the work you can work from almost anywhere now.

Will the Magic Club ever have a permanent location? Probably not, but each location that we go to offers something new. When we were at the library, we couldn't have food and drinks. In our new location (First Community Bank) we can have food and drinks. We can rearrange the chairs and tables to fit our needs.

What about your magic? Is it stuck in a certain time period? Is it tailored to today's audiences? I can tell you from doing kid's shows that some of the routines that I have done in the past would not work today. If you want to find some outdated patter (magic-talk) just go to the Tarbell Course in Magic and look at some of the patter. I heard a quote on a podcast recently concerning Magic performance and it was that the best story wins. I love card tricks and I love mentalism but both of those if done incorrectly (with the wrong story) can be boring and long.

Here is an example that I heard someone give. If you take a quarter and do a French drop vanish then the magic has happened, and the reaction is kind of so what. But if you can weave a story about this 1936 silver dollar that my Grandfather had and then construct a story about him getting mugged and how he was able to keep his "lucky" coin and he taught me how to make sure I never lost his "lucky" coin. Would you like to see how I am going to make sure that the "lucky" coin never gets stolen? What a difference.

If you have ever seen Monty do his sponge ball work with his "portal" it is much more effective than just doing an appearance and vanish of a sponge ball.

So pull out those old tricks and get a different perspective and you might be surprised what you come up with.

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

Little Rock Magic Ring 29 met at First Community Bank Community Room on May 2, 2024. The meeting was presided by President Dane Dover. We began with Ring business discussing the success of the magic lessons provided by the Ring at Terry Library. Participants were very satisfied and mesmerized by the provided lessons and free magic which came with each. Instructors Bob Bullock, Mary Ann Campbell, Dane Dover, Blayk Puckett and Patrick Taft were led by Jim Henson who provided the initial demonstration and explanation.

Terry Library presented the Ring a \$100 check for the day. The library even offered to share the experience with other libraries in hope of the Ring being able to continue with lessons throughout Little Rock. Ring 29 will be exploring the opportunity to provide more magic in hope of gaining exposure and possibly new members. A Huge Thank You goes to each of the instructors and Jim Henson for volunteering their time to share.

Prior to the regular meeting, our board of officers met to discuss recommendations for new officer selection. After some deliberation a list of recommendations from the board was created. The list is as follows:

President: Marty Haughn

Vice President: Dane Dover

Secretary: Joel Nicholson

Treasurer: James Kinsey

Sergeant at Arms: Al Henager

Historian: Mike Curtis

In addition to the list of officers, a few names were brought up as possible assistants for the Secretary and Historian. Until a confirmation of acceptance has been made no names will be available. Ring voting can be done via email with James Kinsey or during the June meeting. If you have any recommendations for any of the positions, please do not hesitate to include them in an email to James.

The business end of our meeting was adjourned and we moved on to the magic. The theme was "Classic Magic". Using a book titled "A Father's Book of Wisdom", our emcee for the night, Wells Autrey read bits of wisdom prior to each performer. To lead us into the magic, Joel Nicholson walked up with what appeared to be a sign which read "Magic Paint Shop, Drive Thru". Inside was a van with an unusual story of accidental paint removal from one side of the van. This left the van to be "magically" painted and matched on both sides.

Al Henager came prepared to create a little carnage with his two hand chopper. With a little hesitation, Mary Ann Campbell came up to assist, or more of a victim. Her hands were placed through the openings then handcuffed! Al started his 1-2-3 count hesitating at 3 with some off the wall story about his last victim. Finally, the blade was dropped and Mary Ann's hands remained intact. She was released from the handcuffs and hand chopper all in one piece.

Dane Dove was next with a classic in card magic, the "Four Ace Assembly". He began by asking Sid Salmans to start counting as cards were laid out. Sid stopped the count, named a suit and the duties were then passed to Mary Ann. She began the count and passed the duties to Jim Henson then on to Bob Bullock. By the time all the counting was complete there were four piles of cards. On the top of all four piles was an Ace with each of the selected suits. Next Dane did what seemed impossible. A Selected Card at Any Number and he did a Las

Secretary Report

Marty Haughn

Vegas wash of the cards, unheard of, I think. A number was named and the cards counted, sure enough there was the selected card. He did show how it was done...I'll let your minds wonder into the abyss in figuring it out.

Rope Master, Bob Bullock stepped up with his ropes and commenced to telling the "Frayed Knot" story, one of my favorites, then quickly moved to "What Knot where the knot is the then not then there again at the other end. He finished with a classic "Professor's Nightmare" using his take, Bob eventually reduced the trick to two ropes, then one, then two again, then back to three even lengths and finally back to three uneven lengths.

Cedric Morely hopped up with two washers. Cedric began by making the holes on two ordinary metal washers vanish. A washer was handed to Mary Ann to hold in a closed fist when the hole appeared in the spectator's own hand! At the end, both washers were handed out and were closely examined!

Blayk Puckett sat at a table and had everyone gather around to watch. He had a small packet of unusual cards, he called it a "Paper iPod". Each card had a musical artist pictured along with their name. Additionally, there were two brown envelopes where two members were asked to choose one. The packet was shuffled and cards were laid out asking for each helper to select one then place face up anywhere into the stack. The cards were then spread and face up cards were located. The choice to use the left or right face down card next to the face up was selected. Those cards when viewed matched the names written in the brown envelopes.

Blast from the Past

Mike Curtis

This month we again go back 10 years to the May, 2014 meeting of the Ring. The President at that time was Jon Bucher and the Secretary was Robert (Bob) White. The Ring met monthly at Shuffield Auditorium, Little Rock.

Following our close-up competition reported for April, the Little Rock club hosted our annual stage competition for our May meeting. After a brief business meeting, MC duties were once again turned over to our own Mr. Magic, the able Jim Henson.

For stage this year we had six entrants with prizes to be awarded for first, second, and audience favorite. As before, prizes consisted of gift certificates from our own local magic shop: Mr. Magic & Novelties.

Also once again, judging was handled by a three person panel consisting of two Ring members and one lay person while the favorite performer was awarded via a write-in ballot passed out among the audience members.

After each performer finished and while the judges were compiling their scores, Jim briefly interviewed each with questions about their start in magic, favorite kind of magic, and favorite performer.

The competition was top notch this year, and I'm sure voting was close. The following is the breakdown of the winners, along with an outline of their routines. First place went to Blayk Puckett. Blayk also took first in last month's close-up event proving his ability to excel in both venues. Blayk presented an original take on the torn and restored card to impossible location. After having a card freely selected, he had the spectator tear it into pieces. When he tried to restore it, all disappeared leaving one torn corner behind. Dismayed, Blayk decided it was time for some juggling and a snack. For this he brought out two razor sharp knives and an apple.

While expertly juggling all three items he was able to actually eat a good portion of the apple as it flew by between the knife blades. When he had his fill and had skewered the remains of the apple, it became obvious that there was a card protruding from the half eaten apple. Of course it was the restored selection, which perfectly matched the torn piece held by the spectator. What a great display of both magic and juggling skill.

Second place went to Dr. Chris Westfall who performed a comedy Linking Ring routine with the help of an audience member. Dr. Westfall attempted to teach the spectator how to perform the Linking Rings, demonstrating the various moves. Of course the spectator's rings didn't cooperate, but the magician as oblivious to this and continued, much to the delight of the audience. As always, Chris is a consummate performer and never fails to entertain.

For the "audience favorite," Rob Merryman took the honors. Rob performed a varied program opening with a visual and magical solution of a Rubik's cube. He then followed with a card effect where a selected card was eventually found reversed in a deck with a different color back. For a finale, Rob performed the visible sawing on a spectator with an electric jig saw. Luckily she survived.

Blast from the Past

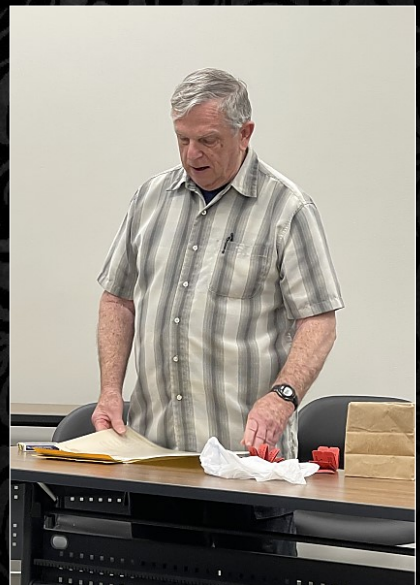
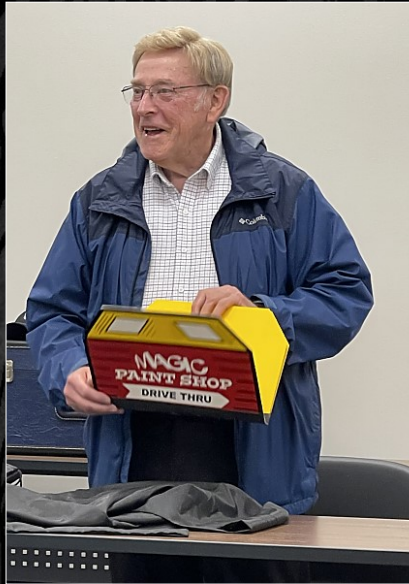
Mike Curtis

It was an evening of superb magic. Congratulations to all our winners for the 2014 stage competition. If you are in the Little Rock area for the first Thursday of the month, please come and join us. Do call ahead to 501-455-6252 during the week to confirm time and place.

The stage competition quickly followed the previous month's close-up competition at the Ring meeting. Winning both of those competitions, Blayk Puckett demonstrated how hard work and making performances entertaining can payoff. He always comes through with well thought out routines and they had to be to overcome the stiff competition from Chris Westfall and Rob Merryman. All of the performers gave outstanding performances.

Until next time, remember the words of Albert Einstein, "The distinction between the past, present and future is only a stubborn illusion."

May Performers



Schedule of Events

2024

Date	Meeting Location	Theme	Lecturer	Host/Emcee
January 13, 2024	7:00 p.m. Jacksonville Community Center	Annual Public Show	N/A	Mary Ann Campbell
February	Terry Library 2015 Napa Valley Drive	Number Magic	N/A	Dane Dover
March	Terry Library 2015 Napa Valley Drive	Coin Magic	N/A	Joel Nicholson
April	Terry Library 2015 Napa Valley Drive	Liquid Magic	N/A	Joel Nicholson
May	First Community Bank 17820 Chenal Parkway Little Rock, AR 72223.	Classic Magic	N/A	Dane Dover
June	Stagecoach Clubhouse	Officer Installation	N/A	Larry Bean
July	First Community Bank 17820 Chenal Parkway Little Rock, AR 72223.	Rope Magic	N/A	
August	First Community Bank 17820 Chenal Parkway Little Rock, AR 72223.	Card Magic	N/A	
September	First Community Bank 17820 Chenal Parkway Little Rock, AR 72223.	Prediction Magic	N/A	
October	First Community Bank 17820 Chenal Parkway Little Rock, AR 72223.	Mentalism/Halloween	N/A	
November	First Community Bank 17820 Chenal Parkway Little Rock, AR 72223.	Escape Magic	N/A	
December	TBA	Ring Christmas Party	N/A	

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

These are our normal meeting gatherings. Any additional activity throughout the year will be listed.

IBM Little Rock Magic Ring 29 Contact Information 2022-2023



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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