



...the Charles Howard ring

Vancouver Magic Circle

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS - RING 92

Affiliated with the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians

April General Meeting - Thursday April 22th. Gimmicked Card Night

The next meeting of the IBM RING 92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Thursday April 22nd, 2010.

This evening's competition will be GIMMICKED CARD MAGIC! Set aside the knuckle busting moves and prestidigitation and enjoy some magic where the cards play a helping hand. The winner of this competition will of course be awarded the lovely Charles Howard trophy. To enter, please provide the proper advance notice to this year's competition chair – Bryn Williams! Contact information is in your roster book or on page 2 of this newsletter.

6:30 – Doors open
7:00 – Workshop begins
8:00 – Business Meeting
8:20 – Snacks and socializing
9:00 – Competition begins

The topic of the workshop will be MENTALISM hosted by Lon Mandrake! So get ready for an exciting, fun-filled magical evening! See you there!



The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:
April 2010



A friendly reminder about the club library - if you borrow an item, PLEASE bring it back. Several people have been over a year late in returning items which could have been enjoyed by other members. Please check with our librarian Dennis Chan if you have any questions.

X-elent Lecture Series—Friday April 23 David Williamson



Hello everyone. I wanted to personally remind you that David Williamson is coming to spend time with us this month to teach us his brand of magic. He's pretty excited and promises to unleash his madness on the entire X-elent Lecture Series region.

I encourage you to scour the internet to find clips of David performing. Just watching him is a lesson in comedy, magic and misdirection. The more you know about David, the

more you'll appreciate and benefit from this upcoming lecture.

Again, watch the videos and spread the word to anyone who would be interested in seeing the-one-and-only - David Williamson.

Cheers,
Lee Asher



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**PRESIDENT**

Bruce Hunt

604-591-9353

bruce.hunt@ibmring92.com

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

Neil Kremer

604-288-2596

neil.kremer@ibmring92.com

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

Mike Norden

604-916-9879

mike.norden@ibmring92.com

SECRETARY

Karen Eskilson

karen.eskilson@ibmring92.com

604-255-9946

TREASURER

David Wilson

david.wilson@ibmring92.com

604-467-7887

SARGEANT-AT-ARMS

Bryn Williams

bryn.williams@ibmring92.com

604-862-6609

PAST PRESIDENT

Gord Boyes

604-852-7361

gord.boyes@ibmring92.com

MAGICAL MINUTES EDITOR

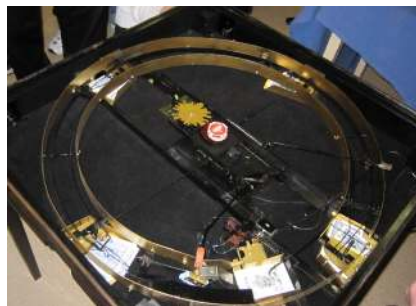
Neil Kremer

778-373-0991

neil.kremer@ibmring92.com

The Magic Collector - submitted by Bruce Hunt

At some of the recent VMC meetings I have managed to bring along a few "interesting" pieces of magic equipment that date back to the early or middle part of the last century. At our March meeting I had a set of "Vernon" copper cups (circa 1950's) and a mechanical card table (circa 1932). The card table doesn't really have anything to



do with magic, but is quirky enough to hold the interest of anyone who does card tricks. Over the many years I have actively performed

magic I have managed to pick up new or used magic with the intention of adding it to my show, but never to "collect". I have always thought of the term "magic collector" as someone who would buy old or antique magic equipment on purpose particularly for display, but very rarely used for actual performance. Well, I guess I have inadvertently managed to combine the two and now must admit that I (sigh) do collect.

Most of us who think of ourselves as magicians have an abnormal fascination for gadgets and weird toys. Once out of our teens, we just never grew up and surround ourselves with the evidence. I have managed to convince my wife to stop yelling "Bruce, will you please pick up your toys" to the more refined "Bruce, will you please pick up your magic". I had my sudden realization a couple of years ago when I was cleaning out my magic closet, and took out several items that had been collecting dust. I went on to eBay and other on-line magic auction sites to see if they were worth anything. Unbelievably I was looking at prices that were anywhere from five to ten times what I had originally paid. A lot of that stuff was bought when I was in my late teens and early twenties and didn't have a mortgage and family to drain my bank account. I consider the 70's and 80's the golden age of magic because thanks primarily to Doug Henning, magic went through a major resurgence and top quality props were still somewhat affordable. Back then, old magic tricks were, well, just old, and were not really considered as being a real "antique" with the high sticker price we have come to expect today.

There were times (then and now) when I would go on a tangent and buy effects to outfit what I originally thought might be a great idea for an act. More often than not, it didn't work out, and I ended up putting it up on a shelf for use at a later date. Every so often I still take down the item and play around with it a bit (boys and their toys!) and then put it back when I know I won't be using it seriously. I can never bring myself to get rid of any decent looking magic

apparatus, especially if it is old. To clarify, this doesn't make me a collector, this makes me a pack-rat. Have you seen the reality show "Hoarders"? There is definitely some resemblance to me, although my stuff doesn't rot and I can still get through my hallway (well, almost).

My advice to anyone wishing to collect – not by accident as in my case – is to pick a particular builder (brand) or item and do your research. For instance, some people collect miniature magic made by Alan Warner, Eddie Taytletbaum, or even Tenyo. A lot of these tricks already have a high value, but the value will continue to grow over the years. Quality does not go out of fashion! Being that they are smaller items, it is also easier to store or display them. Some magicians collect old tokens or cards specifically made as give-away items for some of the greats (Thurston, Blackstone, etc.). There is a wide range of magic manufacturers that have made similar items that can be fun to collect, for instance multiplying pocket watches, finger choppers, money makers, gaffed coins, magicians tables, reels, hold-outs, rice bowls, or even turn of the century magic books.... all are hot items in the collectables market. I cannot stress more that you read everything you can related to your collecting choice and become as much as an expert on that item as possible so you will know when an item is being offered at sale for too much money (or a bargain!), and what may be incorrectly listed and attributed to a certain maker, when it is in reality not (that happens a lot!). As for any antique or collectable, you also have to watch for knock-offs or damage that will bring the price way down.

One of these days I will bring in a car load of my "stuff" for everyone to take a look at so you know exactly what I am talking about. Now that my old junk is now "antique", I have transformed from pack-rat to collector! Enjoy collecting!!

The 50-50-90 rule:
Anytime you have a
50-50 chance of getting
something right, there's a
90% probability you'll get
it wrong.

Submitted by Neil Kremer

Dear Vancouver Magic Circle.

I'm sure before long you'll notice that I am no longer attending our general meetings. Why? Well, I will be living in Europe as of May 1st. My partner's company needed somebody who has experience with specific aspects of their North American organization, speaks German, can live & work in Europe, and is a registered veterinarian in Europe. So, to sum it up – that's why we're moving. We wanted to eventually move to Germany so this was the perfect opportunity and was supposed to take place in January or February of **2011**.

A few weeks ago the company became in urgent need of somebody who fit the same criteria except the location would be the Netherlands (working out of Amsterdam). So, off we go, except the move is for May 2010 instead of early 2011.

In hearing the news about Amsterdam I made a recommendation to Bruce to enlist Bryn as this year's Competition Chair - a worthy candidate who has since been appointed. This would not be a duty I would not be able to fulfill from Europe – I'd have to speak very loudly if I were to be heard reading the rules before a competition.

Producing the monthly newsletter is entirely computer based and from May onward, this publication will be produced halfway around the world (printed in Maple Ridge). Perhaps this is the first time in our history the Magical Minutes will be made in Europe.

As 1st Vice-President there are duties and responsibilities which mainly include organization and planning. Fortunately most of this is telecommunication (phone / internet) and computer

friendly. I will continue to fulfill my role as 1st Vice-President to the very best of my abilities and bare sufficient weight and responsibility to not rely too heavily on the other members of the Executive.

Anybody wishing to contact me for any reason (VMC or otherwise) may still do so via email or my regular Vancouver phone number which I'll be using in Europe. Thanks to the miracle of the Internet and Vonage phone service I will still only be an email or LOCAL phone call away. All my contact details can be found in the roster book as usual or on page 2 of this newsletter.

I'm fully expecting a wonderful year for the VMC and will continue to do my best to ensure we're moving ahead as usual.

I will miss you all and hopefully I'll see everybody again SOON!

Magical best,



Neil Kremer

Vancouver Magic Circle - IBM Ring 92

1st Vice-President / Newsletter Publisher



MARCH IN REVIEW - Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

Our March meeting is unique in that it is ONE TRICK NIGHT and every member is encouraged to do ONE TRICK of 3 minute maximum duration. It is in our constitution that every member is required to entertain at a club function once a year and this is a dead easy means to do so. However, this has never been enforced to my knowledge as you will see. The evening began with a workshop of Cups and Balls lead by President

Bruce Hunt who started by talking about Bill Palmer and the C&B Museum. Amanda O'Leary, a magic shop owner, quickly stepped in and demonstrated her approach to this classic. She was followed by world champion Shawn Farquhar who put his own spin on the subject. Then Ray Roch and Steve Dickson also showed their professional approaches that were all different. Finally Sterling Dietz, a visitor from Seattle, showed a routine he was developing using Lego - a most unusual variation.

During the business meeting the 11 guests were introduced. Due to an interpreting error of persons writing, one was introduced as Mrs. Jennifer Mayonnaise from Seattle. Huge laughter, but that was to be her name for the rest of the evening. (A far cry from the proper Jennifer Meyers.)

I also chatted with Alexander Seaman who missed last meeting as he was in Ottawa, with 150 other students for "Encounter with Canada" to learn of the governance of our nation and also the workings of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He mentioned they all stayed at the Terry Fox Centre for Youth where the

evening chats were also enlightening.

We also had a mini memorial for Jacko Mellor who died suddenly in March. Then it was off to Past Presidents night. - lead off by Gord Boyes doing a coin trick; Mike Norden used elastics; Gary Savard had help of Bruce Meyers and Mrs. Mayonnaise with cards; David Wilson used a pig ;and Shawn Farquhar did cards.

Now the members stepped up - lead by Bruce Hunt with a bag of marbles; Neil Kremer did a precognition trick; Mark Braybrooke, a junior, did cards with help of 4 volunteers; Brianna Carlson, also a junior, did cards; Frank Pataki did rope; Ed Goldberg did cards; Bruce Meyers had a magic key; Rod Chow with help of Mrs. Mayonnaise did cards, Billy Hsueh needed help from Bruce Meyers; Henry Tom with help of Shawn & Peiking Duck used cards; Alexander Seaman with help of Jesse Boyes did cards and Ray Wong did a clever rope trick. Our 36 members and 11 guests had a fun night.

The food break was provided by Bruce and Georgina Hunt although Georgina was not able to attend.



MARCH IN REVIEW - Continued



Thanks **Rod Chow** for the wonderful photos!

Are you traveling to Kramien's? Going on the PCAM Cruise to Mexico?

What will it cost you on your cell phone while you are there?!

Roaming charges are about \$1.45 a MINUTE in the USA and \$1.49 and up in Mexico - ouch! If you have the fancy new iPhones you could be paying \$25 per MB in Mexico and \$0.60 a text message! What can you do?

Well - most providers offer some packages to cover you calls. If you are with Telus then our very own Mike Norden can help you with that. If you are with one of the other companies then dial *611 from your cell phone to talk to their customer service about your options.

Now you know - and knowing is half the battle!...G.I Joe....never mind....

Mike

With the passing of Jack Mellor, I got to thinking about how he was an ambassador of magic and performing in general with his "catch me without a balloon and I'll give you a buck" motto. He was ready to perform, he was willing to share his talents but most important, he promoted good will.

As magicians, we all need to be ambassadors of magic. If people meet you and you say you are a magician; you then have become an ambassador, a representative of the craft.

I deal with people all the time of all ages and backgrounds who hate clowns. Some of which will not step foot in my store because of the name, Clownin Around Magic. I kid you not. That deeply rooted fear had to come from somewhere. (Okay I hear you," I'm a magician not a clown, Amanda!" Stick with me.) Their interaction was traumatic. They either saw that movie "IT" or a clown frightened them. That person's perspective was changed forever at that time. As ambassadors of magic, we need to endeavour that our interactions are positive.

Jack performed as Ronald McDonald, as a magician and he was a store owner. He dealt with children and adults in all three arenas. Each required a different approach but in each arena he was a professional who increased the enjoyment of the art.

Whether you do magic professionally or just for friends or just for yourself, you impact how people perceive the art. We all need to be ambassadors to promote and increase the love of magic. Each one of us affects the art form because we are all part of the weave of the fabric of magic.

Amanda



The Vancouver Magic Circle is very lucky to have it's very own local magic shop. Clownin Around Magic is a part of our culture and community and is truly a part of our brotherhood of magicians. Please stop by for a visit and say hello and have a look at all the great new wonders in store!

- 2010 VMC Executive

Clownin'
AROUND

MAGIC SHOP

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE
Vancouver Magic Circle
PRESENTS

2010 Children's Magician of the Year Show

MAGIC for YOUNGSTERS

SHADBOLT CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
STUDIO THEATRE
6450 Deer Lake Ave, Burnaby

Showtime is 1:00 pm
Sunday June 6, 2010

Tickets ONLY \$10! Call 604.205.3000 NOW!

Your vote decides who wins!



Tidbits

The Children's Magician of the Year show is almost upon us and it promises to be a great afternoon of magic and fun for the whole family. Top magicians are vying for the prestigious Wilf Rutherford trophy and title of "Children's Magician of the Year." It's your vote that decides who wins so be a part of the action and join us on Sunday June the 6th at 1 pm.

If you would like to be a contestant in the 2010 CMOTY, please email Neil Kremer before the cut of date: May 25 2010!!!

General admission tickets are still only \$10 – available by phoning the theatre box office at: 604-205-3000 or at our next general meeting. **Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.**

Please help make this event a success by spreading the word to anybody who may be interested in a fun and magical afternoon.

Thanks for your valuable support! See you there! - Mike and Neil, Producers

ADVERTISERS:

This year we are looking for a sole advertiser for the program guide. There is a 2" high by 5" wide space reserved for your advertisement. A separate full page advertising flyer may also be given to us for enclosure within each guide. We will be taking bids for his exclusive advertising opportunity. Please tender your bid by contacting 2nd Vice-President Mike Norden (contact information on page 2). Bidding starts at \$200.

PERFORMERS:

Please note that contestant will be asked for a \$50 dollar deposit for entry this year (payable by CASH to our Treasurer). Your deposit **will be refunded** after your performance and announcement of the winner at the end of the show. If you do not perform or stay to the end of the show the deposit will not be refunded. The Executive has decided upon this new rule to help ensure we provide the very best show to the public. Thanks for your understanding!



This photo was taken in 1963. Do you know who this VMC magician is? Hint: He's wearing a "Winnipeg Olympics" jacket from 1961.
(Answer at the bottom of back page.)

Coming Events

General Meeting & Gimmicked Card Magic – April 22

David Williamson Lecture - April 23

Kramien's Magic Jamboree – April 30 to May 1

Children's Magician of the Year Show – June 6

PCAM Magic at Sea – July 11 to July 18

Tri-City Convention VANCOUVER - November 5 to 7



SHAWN FARQUHAR presents

PCAM 2010!

Los Angeles, Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan,
Puerto Vallarta, plus three full days at sea!

Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas
Sunday July 11th to Sunday July 18th

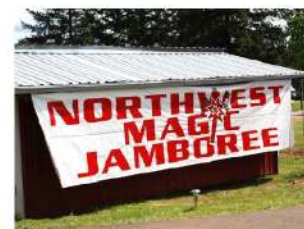
For more information please visit:

www.magicatsea.com

Kramien's Magic Jamoree

Where you mingle with the
stars

April 30 – May 1 2010



Kramien's Magic Jamboree will be returning this year -
this is the magical gathering everyone is talking about.
This year, you'll enjoy:

Two evening shows
Many BIG-name acts
Great NEW lectures
Lots of great dealers
2 contests – stage & close-up
1 HUGE grand magic auction

This is one of the year's highlights for many VMC
members.

For more information please visit:

www.magicjamboree.com

Disclaimer — These Magical Minutes have been brought to you on a tight deadline with little resources. The author(s) accept no responsibility for typos, spelling errors, grammatical errors, accuracy of fact (or lack of), omission of details, layout, graphics, political correctness, oversight of individuals or groups or groups of individuals who may or may not have contributed to the creation process or the creative inspiration of others. No animals were harmed in the creation of this newsletter.