



...the Charles Howard ring

Vancouver Magic Circle

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS - RING 92

Affiliated with the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians

June General Meeting - Thursday June 24th. IMPROMPTU CARD MAGIC NIGHT

Our next meeting takes place at the Sunrise Community Hall in Vancouver – of course. It will be IMPROMPTU CARD MAGIC NIGHT and the competition will be for the Ray Gamble trophy. This competition is for adult members only and there will be no junior competition this month. Please contact Competition Chair, Bryn Williams if you would like to enter. Please provide at least 24 hours prior notice of your intent to compete – late entries can not be allowed. (Contact details on page 2 or in your roster book)

The workshop is a surprise this month – all the details of the evening are TOP SECRET. There's only one way to find out what's happening this month, come to the secret meeting location! We'll see you there.

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



TRI-CITY MAGICAL WEEKEND November 5th to 7th, 2010

Ring # 92 is proud to re-introduce the 'Tri-City Magical Weekend' by being the first host for 2010! The Convention will rotate through the 3 rings (Vancouver, Everett & Victoria) each year!

- * When: Friday November 5th - Sunday November 7th
- * Where: Best Western Sands Hotel, 1755 Davie St, Vancouver
- * Why: Awesome Lectures, Saturday Evening Show, Sorcerer's Social, Dealers Room, Magical Lunch - and MORE!
- * Who: Daniel Garcia (close up master), Shawn Farquhar (World Champion), Robert Baxt (IBM winner for comedy) Bill Abbott (comedy magic), Tim Sonefelt (kids magic)
- * Plus local talent like Trevor & Lorena, Steve Dickson, Payne, Jeff Dial, Brian Cook, Matt Wells, Fredric Turner. Jamie D. Grant and MORE!

For more information and registration, please visit: <http://www.ibmring92.com/weekend.html>

The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:
June 2010



If you have an interesting story, or something magical you'd like to share with us, please send it to me! A story of how you go into magic and where it's taken you – or hasn't taken you? Anything you may wish to contribute is always appreciated. Email your ideas to: neil.kremer@ibmring92.com

Neil Kremer

Neil Kremer, Editor

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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

604-288-2596

neil.kremer@ibmring92.com



The difference
between genius and
stupidity is; genius
has its limits.

-Albert Einstein

Challenges or an opportunity to learn from the unanticipated teacher.

To quote an old proverb: When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.

Thirty years six months and one day after signing my first contract to tour with a professional show, I had just had one of the most magical, educational experiences of my entertaining career.

In those thirty plus years the range of my performing experiences has been similar to many of yours. I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to entertain at everything from back yard birthday parties, to beach parties in the South Pacific, to Fairs and Festivals, to many of the major venues in the biggest cities in the world.

Recently my biggest challenge has been mentally changing gears from Children's shows to Office parties and back to Children's shows all in a matter of hours.

Late in the Christmas booking Season I got a call asking if I could entertain at a Christmas event for families of children with special needs, who were receiving services from a Centre for Children's Health. The request was to entertain a small group of people for four hours. My standard Christmas Party

show is 45 minutes. Though I am quite comfortable doing three and four hour roving entertainment stints at large events, four hours for a small group was going to be a stretch.

The venue was excellent, with large round tables with lots of room for me to work and move. Each table was pre set with many games, puzzles and Ginger Bread House building kits. There were seats to one side for Santa and Mrs. Clause, and an open area at the entrance where I finished off the day with a 20 minute stand up performance. For the guests, there was a lunch cart arrayed with a fine variety of food choices. For performers and staff, there was a green room, which I may have gotten to once.

While waiting for the families to arrive, I did a little warm-up and promotion by entertaining the staff and event organizers. Families began to arrive, and once they were seated, I settled in to working the tables. For the majority of the children, the special needs were physical rather than learning level. I finished my first round of the tables, stepped back to take a five minute break and consider my next round.

Keeping a child's attention for more than three minutes is no mean feat in any situation; I had 28 parents and children to keep entertained for the next 3 hours 25 minutes. To add a little

pressure to this, I had a few very eager care givers who felt it their duty to whisper in my ear every few minutes to ask if I had gotten to this table or that table and be sure to do some magic for the child, or children they were caring for. I assured them that over the next three hours, each child would probably see my entire close-up repertoire. Though I say that keeping a child's attention is a special skill, there are those amazing moments when a child is so fascinated by a trick that they will ask to see it over and over, and an hour later come back and ask to see it again. But I digress. This story is not about "How creative can you presentation of a vanishing silk be on the 10th repetition?"

My wonderful learning experience began about an hour into the event. A boy, about 10 years old, and his father arrived at sat at the last table in the back corner of the room. The boy was blind, and I learned later, had been so from birth. While working the tables and getting nearer to their table, I occasionally glanced over at the boy and his father, and thinking that other than one numbers trick that is done in the head, I had no other material to perform for him. The boy had opened the ginger bread house kit that was on his table, and had begun assembling it. For all that I have seen and done in my life, and the years spent coaching Special Olympic athletes, I was still stupidly fascinated by his ability to do so.

- Continued

I have long been of the mind set that where as music can be either the focal point of the entertainment or back ground for it, Magic is a visual art requiring focus and attention to make an impact. Well, I was wrong.

I went to the table and introduced myself to the boy (Alex) and his father (Tom). When I told Alex that I was a magician, he said that he loved magic and would like to see some. You might imagine that I was some what stunned by that comment. Alex lacked nothing in his desire to experience and enjoy magic, all that lacked was my knowledge of how to present it. After a little preamble and my one mental magic trick, I pulled out the Ninja Rings. Swapping out the solid ring for Alex to examine was no different than for anyone else, and remember though

you might think I was tempted to cheat a bit on this swap, Tom was watching, along with a few other people who had gathered at the table. With Alex holding the rings, we went through a variety of linking and unlinking moves, many of which I had never before considered.

Have you ever felt magic? Yes, I know that a cane to silk is not a close-up effect, but it was too much fun to resist having Alex feels the transformation of the cane to the silk. Have you ever heard the click of the magnets in pen through anything? He did. For the next half hour Alex and I went though every magic effect that he could, literally put his hands on.

I got back to Alex and Tom's table twice more in my rounds of the tables, and then finished off the day with a stand up show,

greatly assisted by the infectious squeals of delight from a very little boy, thrilled by every magical effect.

While reflecting on these events sometime later, it struck me as to how much time Tom and other people in Alex's life had spent helping him to collect and process the information that has allowed him to form a vast library of mental images.

This experience has challenged me to look beyond the world and materials that I have grown comfortable with. If any of you have had similar experiences, or have ideas on this that you would like to share, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Thanks

Greg Ladret



It's almost time for another wonderful VMC SUMMER PICNIC! Please check out website for updates on this event.

If you would like to perform and get your Magic Wand Degree, please contact Bryn Williams to provide notification of your entry. Plan early and put on a GREAT show – this is a great opportunity to show your unique approach to magic to an eager audience.

CHILDREN'S MAGICIAN OF THE YEAR 2010 - Submitted by David Parker

Sunday June 6th 2010 was a great day to avoid the downpour and spend some time indoors enjoying the 2010 Children's Magician of the Year (CMOTY) competition at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in beautiful rainy Burnaby.

Prior to the show, I was entertained by strolling magicians Steve Dickson, Alex Seaman, Brianna Carlson, and Henry Tom. Then it was time for Rod Chow to introduce last year's CMOTY winner, and our host for the afternoon, Gord Boyes.

First up was Bruce Hunt, he started off with a chair gag that lasted for several minutes and had all of the children in stitches. That was followed by a young assistant who helped him with a torn and restored paper routine, a penetrating neck routine and ended with the production of a rabbit.

Next with Jeff Christensen as the "Great Smartini" and his Chimpanzee – Coconut (who stole the show). He did a routine about something that was brown and sticky, followed by the Vanishing Bandanna, and then took photographs of the crowd, but something went terribly wrong with his camera as it squirted water at the audience. Perhaps it was the flawed camera, or something else, that caused Jeff to go over the 10 minute time limit, which, unfortunately, caused him to be disqualified, as was Coconut.

Third on the program was Michael Glennister. He started with a birthday trick, then a bill transformation, followed by a production of a real live goldfish from the bill, Then he did sponge balls over the head, a cut and restored rope, and ended with a bunny production.

Last, but not least, was Mike Norden. He did a stretchy want routine, laundering of some dirty handkerchiefs, a unforgettable trick, and ended with some bailoon animals ('cause he can't say balloon).

Then it was intermission, where the audience got to vote for their favourite (non-disqualified) magician. After intermission, we were entertained by Nicholas Chow and Melody Choi. Following that, as per our tradition, we were entertained by last year's winner Gord Boyes, with assistance from Jesse Boyes, Doug the Daredevil dove, and it's not a magic wand – it's a stick.

The moment we had all been waiting for – the awarding of the trophy for the 2010 Children's Magician of the Year.... and the winner is Mike Norden. Congratulations, Mike.



April in Review - Submitted by Dennis Chan

The subject of the May meeting workshop was called "State your Case". This was a little fun event mc'd by Gary Savard whereby magicians brought in different styles of carrying cases and tables which fit to their style of performance. The magicians bringing in their cases were Gary Savard, Bruce Hunt, Mike Norden, Dennis Hewson, Bruce Meyers, and Alexander Seaman. Each person gave a little talk about their carrying cases and tables and how they used them and why they were designed to suit their needs.

After the business meeting there was a surprise. Stephen Braybrooke and his

fiancee Jill Harper celebrated their engagement; and provided the food for the celebration. There was a cake cutting ceremony and sparkling juice and lots of congratulations from club members. Best wishes to Stephen and Jill.

A special thanks to one of our junior members, Brianna Carlson, who always brings muffins or cupcakes with a magical theme. Thanks again Brianna.

This was also the annual close-up competition for the H.B. MacLean trophy for adults, no cards allowed; and the Dick Gardner trophy for juniors, cards allowed.

The competitors for the adult competition were Philip Razon, Mike Norden, and John Stenning. Mike won!!!

The competitors for the junior competition were Jack Chow, Billy Hsueh and Alexander Seaman. Alexander won. Congratulations to the winners.

Another surprise - Joji Yamashita donated a DVD player to the club. Thank you very much Joji.

The winner of the 50/50 draw of \$55.00 was Mike Norden. 12 guests and 42 members had a fun evening.



Eight Tricks for Pocket:

There were going to be ten tricks but I ran out of room.

Invisible deck: This is a great trick for its versatility in presentation and involvement with your audience. Is it a trick deck – yep! Before you “poo-poo” it for being such, remember David Blaine did extremely well because of this trick. This is most likely one of the most asked about effects in my shop. “This magician did this card trick, one card, my card was the only one turned upside down. That was a good 20 years ago. How?” Now to me that is a trick. You’ve made that person remember a specific magic trick and even after 20 years the mystery still haunts them.

Regular deck: People always like a card trick. Notice I said a card trick. 40 of them may get tedious! Unless you are a magician, lay people miss the card control and after the same card has been re-found time and again, their brain starts to question whether or not it’s a “real” deck. Now, you do need to be able handle cards so your skill level required is higher. This is a magic trick that is up to you to provide the magic. A card trick is almost a mandatory item is you are to be seen as a magician.

Scotch and Soda: What a great basic coin trick that does the work for you. Again, like an invisible deck, it has so many possibilities. The handling is easy and it

allows you to do the entertaining. It’s a great prop that can be used in other countries with their coins.

Pocket Ring Set: There is a little pocket set that although it doesn’t have 8 rings, it does give you the opportunity to present again another famous asked for a lot, (“I’ve always wondered how this is done”) illusion. It’s close up. It’s in their face. It gives them just that flavour of the whole routine and it fits in your pocket.

Svengali Deck: Just because it is another fixed deck, don’t discount it. How you present it, makes this “no skill required” trick as clever and intriguing as any card trick. There are books and dvds that will expand the presentation possibilities. This is a great magic trick and one that lends itself to motivational messages.

Thumb Tip: I was doing walk around on the weekend. I got at least 10 good minutes out of performing this trick. I had made it into a 3 fold presentation where for the first two stages, I wore “egg on my face” and finally when I actually got it to disappear, the looks on the faces were amazing. Meanwhile there was lots of interaction and laughs from both the adults and the kids. Hello? This would be one of my definitions of a great trick.

Expandable, crowd pleasing for all ages and easy reset and doesn’t require a table.

Wallet: The fire wallet gets their attention.

David Stone said it best when he was here for his lecture, he never has to introduce himself as a magician, once he does that trick under the guise of “is this your wallet?”, they know he’s a magician. So what’s the caveat? There are safety issues both your audience and yours and you shouldn’t be using any fire items if you’re under 18.

Coin in Bottle: Of the 10 tricks listed here, this would be one of the top 3 requested. Apparently a lot of drinks are won in bars with this coin. Again, I hear the tsk, tsk, tsk that’s not real magic. If only we could look at David Blaine’s bank account we might think differently! It’s the really easy to do magic trick that has made such an impact on the magic culture and help create such an identifiable name. For those who may not appreciate his presentations, he breathed life into the interest in magic. It took a great upsurge after his specials. We could use another such lift.

Say what you will, easy magic tricks that fit in your pocket, reset quickly and have a wow factor are great for table hopping or just entertaining friends. Wondering what the other two were? I had two picked but what would you suggest? Drop me an email at clowninaroundmagic@yahoo.com

Enjoy!

Amanda and Joe



www.clowninaroundmagic.com

Please continue to show your support and appreciation for Vancouver's ONLY (and very local) magic shop by visiting them on the 2nd floor of the Kids Market, Granville Island. (1496 Cartwright St, Vancouver, BC 604-682-0244)

-2010 VMC Executive

This VMC magician performed his first "terrifying" stage magic performance at age 11 in Chateauguay, Quebec and later became rock star in 1961. This was when his rock'n'roll band, The Megatones, won a Montreal talent show contest with an instrumental (sped-up) version of Les Paul and Mary Ford's song, "The World's Waitin' for the Sunrise".

After attending Concord University, he served as a pilot in the RCAF and later built a civilian airline in Ontario.

Nearly 18 years later, when this picture was taken (bottom right), he had his own popular-music band "Light'n'Easy" in Pembroke Ontario. He was also playing backup guitar in two local country bands, mostly playing in Ottawa Valley and Quebec hotels and for wedding receptions.

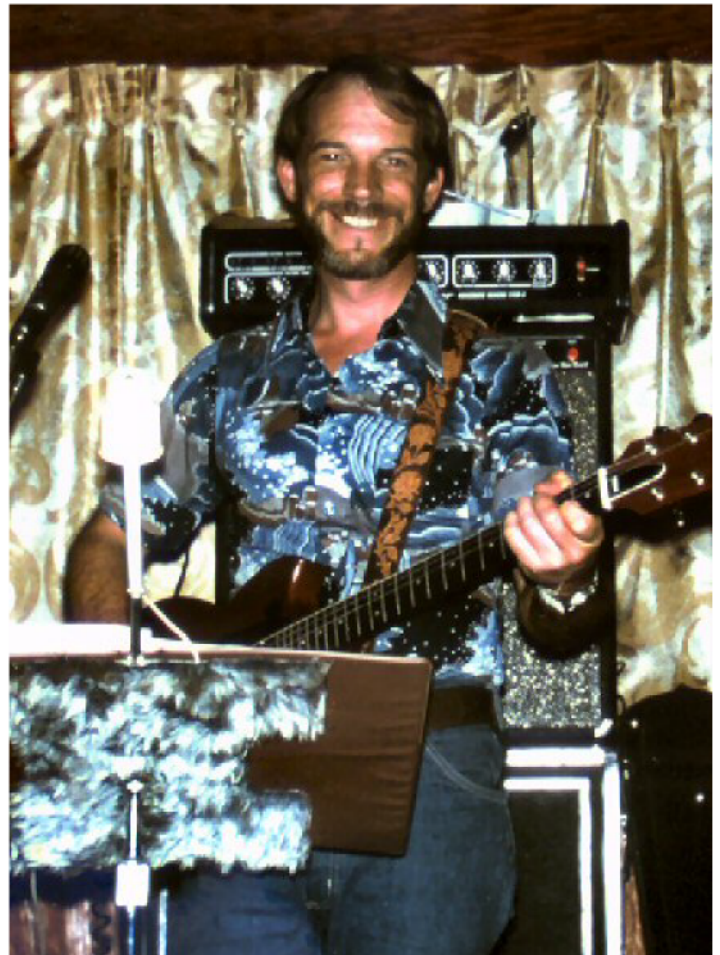
When he arrived in Vancouver, he worked solo in several local hotels (for example, West Country Hotel in Langley and the Haney Hotel in Haney) and Neighbourhood Pubs. Besides regular sets, he played audience requests for popular hits from 1880 to 1979. He also played pickup guitar and sang with The Evan Kemp Band. Evan, a country music recording star, played a local circuit including Canadian Legions, Army/Navy/Airforce clubs, Private Parties and Prisons.

Do you know which VMC magic's story this is? (answer on back page)



Montreal rock'n'roll band: The Megatones

Our VMC mystery magician is flying this plane in July of 1962.



Do you know who this VMC magician is?
(Answer at the bottom of back page.)

If you would like to be featured as our MYSTERY PHOTO MAGICIAN, please send an old photo via email to the Editor. Neil Kremer - neil.kremer@ibmring92.com

Coming Events

General Meeting & Impromptu Card Magic Night – June 24

IBM Annual Convention - July 6 to 10

PCAM Magic at Sea – July 11 to July 18

VMC Summer Picnic - August, date TBA

Tri-City Convention VANCOUVER - November 5 to 7



SHAWN FARQUHAR presents

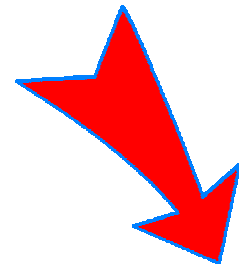
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Sunday July 11th to Sunday July 18th

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