



...the Charles Howard ring

Vancouver Magic Circle

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS - RING 92

Affiliated with the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians

CHRISTMAS DINNER - November 28, 2010

On November 28th (Sunday) is the Annual Vancouver Magic Circle Christmas Party!

It will be held at the Sands Hotel with the doors open at 5 pm, and a great buffet dinner at 6:15 pm sharp! The cost is only \$25.00 per person (you can bring guests too!), with children 12 and under only \$12.50. This money goes directly to the hotel for the dinner, so you will have to pay when you arrive. The first 25 people who arrive will get free parking!!! (See registration desk)

This is also the night we hold our stage competition for Adults - the William Shelley Trophy, and Juniors - the Percy Poole Trophy. Hey! I heard that Santa will make an appearance too! Be nice (not naughty!) and

let us know you are coming by contacting Bruce Hunt or Karen Eskilson by phone or email. We would like to know approximately how many people are going to be there for dinner as soon as possible.

If you can't make the dinner, you are invited to come and join us afterwards (around 7:30 pm or later) to see or even perform in the competition, but who wants to miss all that delicious food???

Oh, by the way, if you wish to enter the competition, make sure you have contacted Bryn Williams (our competition chairman) well before the Christmas Party (at least a couple of days!). Questions? Give Bruce a call!

CAM / PCAM COMBINED CONVENTION - July 28 to 31, 2011

Get ready for the first ever combined convention of the Canadian Association of Magicians and Pacific Coast Association of Magicians. The Vancouver Magic Circle (Canada's largest magic club) is proud to be hosting these two fine conventions in 2011.

Check the upcoming issues of the Magical Minutes for more details or go to:

magicianconvention.com

The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:
November 2010



Remember to contact Bryn Williams to enter this upcoming competitions! Help put on an unforgettable show at the Christmas dinner (and maybe win the trophy!).



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CONVENTION STORIES - submitted by Bruce Hunt

The recent VMC Tri-City Weekend of Magic was a great success and a convention not soon forgotten. It is events like this where years from now we can look back and relate stories to younger magic enthusiasts of the greats in Magic we managed to meet and talk to, and what was learned. Some of the most vivid memories are of the "bloopers" or funny things that happened – usually unintentional. For instance, at the Tri-City, one that will be talked about for a long time was the "Bale" incident between Danny Garcia and Billy. Another was when "Tequila", Trevor and Lorena's little dog, made an early appearance that was definitely not in the script! Both ended up being real fun moments that brought home the realization to most of us that even in the most expert hands, things can go wrong, but like the old saying – if fate hands you lemons, make lemonade!

Two such personal moment happened to me back in the early 1980's. My wife, Georgina, and I travelled to Las Vegas to attend the Classic Desert Seminar hosted by Siegfried and Roy. We managed to meet many of the "stars" of the magic world at that time and catch some fantastic performances and lectures. This was back when S&R had their own showroom in the Stardust Hotel and Casino. On the schedule was a special stage performance by the famous duo for seminar attendees only – no public. We had linked up with another couple from Vancouver and were determined to get the best seats in the house. There was a break in the convention a few hours before the show, so we headed down early to the theatre to be the first ones in line some two hours before performance time. To pass the time we were able to spell each other off with two going into the casino (only steps away) to play the slot machines (they actually took coins at that time!) while the other two held our position in line. A short time later the line-up grew to several hundred people, winding right through the casino and hotel lobby. Finally, we saw the theatre doorman getting ready to let us in, but first, the guests of honour were ushered in. None other

than Dai Vernon and Tony Slydini passed within a few feet of us as the small entourage headed for the entrance of the Siegfried and Roy Theatre.

My wife, not knowing who these two frail old gentlemen were, suddenly became aware of the group getting into the theatre ahead of us, and thought they were "butting" in. Luckily I was able to catch her in mid-lunge as she yelled "Hey – where the heck do you think you're going?". It took me a few seconds to calm her down and explain that it was OK, they were "special". Dai and Tony never knew how close they came to feeling the wrath of George!

Shortly after that incident (no, we weren't arrested) we were seated in excellent seats right next to the catwalk that extended out from the stage. Of course the "catwalk" really is a good word for it as the big cats – white tigers and other very large felines – were paraded down this section and back to the main stage so the audience got a close-up look at them. Maybe a little too close! It was towards the end of the show that Roy walked one of the tigers past me, and I felt the end of a long furry twitching tail hit me squarely on the side of the head, my glasses flying several seats down. It felt something like getting hit with a heavy feather-duster so there was no injury and the glasses were not damaged, but I must say I was a bit startled. I can sincerely say I was attacked by a ferocious beast and lived to tell the tale (or is that tail?!). Well, that's my story and I'm sticking to it!



"Cats are magical. .
.the more you pet
them the longer you
both live."

TRI-CITY MAGICAL WEEKEND REVIEW - by Munro Mackenzie with supplements by Mike Norden

Registration began at the Sands Hotel in Vancouver at 3 pm. Mike Norden, the conventions producer, and Bryn Williams manned the station. Bruce Hunt and his lovely wife, Georgina took over later. The guest were greeted with a convention package containing their colour coded name badge, a full colour program book (created by Neil Kremer), a SAM contest entry form, and a few other perks. It ran smooth as butter and everyone got their package and headed to the dealers room and awaited the start of the Sorcerers Social!

Next was the SAM sponsored One Handed Cut-a-Thon. There were three rounds but Eric Bedard of the Victoria Magic Circle was so cool and fast that the others should have stayed home. In the final round Eric did not win for style (he was robbed) but he did win for speed and accuracy. He was a blur and set a new record with 72 cuts in 60 seconds!

At 6 pm we started the show off with a bang! Shawn Farquhar, our FISM CHAMPION, started his Bread and Butter lecture. When Shawn speaks we should all listen as he has the exposure and experience to make any subject fascinating. A great way to start the evening!

After Shawn was a short dinner break before the evening show, sponsored by the Ring of Fire. Emcee Master Payne introduced Jeff Dial, 11 year old Matt Wells (have you ever seen such a beautiful smile?), Fredrick Turner, and Brian Cook (why did I put away my yo-yo?). What a wonderful assortment of magic and such great talents. Thank you Ring #339!

A special conventioneer was Canadian Joan Caesar, past President of the I.B.M. She was our featured guest at the Saturday dinner and was presented with a Presidential Citation by President Bruce

Hunt. Did you know that the I.B.M. was started by a Canadian with a couple of friends? I bet you didn't know that Harry Houdini, born Eric Weiss, was born 24 March 1874. I wonder if this date is why Mike Norden, convention producer, chose to marry his lovely wife?

Next up was the Robert Baxt lecture. Who would have thought he would present us with the Professor's Nightmare rope trick but with a most engaging storyline? The storyline alone made the trick fresh. Then another oldie - a torn and restored \$20.00 bill in a piece of rope. Again, it was the story that made this trick stand out. His version of the Torn and Restored Newspaper had people jumping out of the seats with money in hand to purchase it – and his 'Where? There!' had people doing this saying all weekend long! Several more great presentations ended his lecture.

The dealers' room consisted of Murray's Trick and Joke Shop from Victoria, Clownin Around from Vancouver, Wonder Imagery from Tim Sonefelt, and Tony Chris Magic. They opened the doors for an hour before everyone headed up to the hospitality suite at midnight. I was long in my queen size bed by then.

Saturday morning my diabetic body was craving a delicious breakfast made more so by having David Watters pay for it unrepentantly. The first event of the morning was a lecture by South Carolina children's performer extraordinaire – Tim Sonefelt! Over 80 people came to the 9:15 am lecture and Tim Horton's donuts awaited all those who got up so early – what a great turnout! We all listened to Tim Sonefelt spin his yarn (or silks!) on how Houdini escaped jail, also a pirate routine, a unique coins across and a chicken to a swan with an ugly duckling message. His products (Wonder Imagery) are some of

the most beautiful silks and items produced! The kid performers in the group – along with everyone else – really enjoyed the lecture.

Following Tim was the close-up show. Shawn Farquhar, acting as MC, introduced Master Payne to do his Coin in a Coke Bottle effect - but you should have seen the size of the bottles used. Really quite funny (you can check it out online!) Next was our own Steve Dickson doing a coin in bottle too – with some funny adlibs due to who he had just followed! He had the help of two assistants and then segued into his clever card trick. Daniel Garcia ROCKED the house with his close up show – this 29 year old Texas native sure knows how to engage an audience. Even if a trick goes awry he makes it all that much better! His unique style left people salivating for his lecture at 2 pm! Shawn did a little FISM act – his solid cups and balls! Wow – now that is a top notch close up show!

We broke for lunch – which featured a great menu from our friend and hotel owner, Craig Prystay. They closed off the entire restaurant for our use – which made getting the food that much quicker! Everyone headed back to the ballroom for a group convention photo after lunch. Nearly 200 people squeezed into that room and would have made the fire marshal blanch. Our professional photographer, Brian Bannister did a fast and painless job to everyone's delight. Next up was the much anticipated Daniel Garcia Lecture – and no one was disappointed! He went for a solid TWO hours straight showing close up miracles and sleights – as well as some great parlour style tricks. There was a moment when volunteer Billy Hsueh chooses the wrong word in a book test and 'ball' became 'bale' – hilarious! Not to mention when a registrant had a cell phone call during the lecture – which Daniel answered in a way that made the room roar!

With perhaps 15 minutes to purchase Daniel's products (which he was offering for only \$100 for the complete line of his products – and he sold out in 10 minutes!) it was onto Bill Abbott and his lecture. No rest for the weary here! Bill is a fellow Canadian from Toronto (we forgave him) and put on an excellent lecture for another packed room. His unique five card opener was a nice effect to start with and his zombie ball style trick called 'The Thing' brought it to a much higher level - very smooth. He showed a great mind control / mentalism effect that was easy to do, but very powerful – and a trick called 'Smart-Ass'. Needless to say he sold out of everything as well with the storm to his table at the end of his 90 minute set.

56 members retired for a special dinner show (extra cost event) where we were entertained by Master Payne in a very funny camera projection routine. After dinner President Bruce Hunt presented Joan Caesar. Our IBM Past President, with a special plaque recognizing her service and attendance. Now it was time for the gala evening magic show at 8 pm!

It started with our own Trevor Watters and Lorena doing an illusion effect then Trevor escaping from a straight jacket in record time. I was enjoying the show so much I forgot to take notes (but no worries, Mike Norden is here to fill in the blanks!) Trevor and Lorena – who won the Golden Lion award earlier this year, were stunning! Lorena was great in her antics of NOT trying to get cut in half, and Tequila (the Chihuahua) even prematurely stuck her head out of the prop for the newspaper shred routine. Now that was priceless! Robert Baxt was the Emcee for the evening and you could not have picked a better man for the job! He kept the audience in stitches while the next act set up – which was none other than Tim Sonefelt.

Now Tim is a children's magician, so with 2 FISM winners in the show and two 4F members, he might be out of place – but he was not! He held his own with a great burnt bill routine (with Canadian money!) that had us fear for the sprinkler system! Then he had Hannah Christensen come up and did a pre-recorded "Princess" themed change bag routine that was timed to perfection. Well done! After Robert Baxt did a quick trick it was on to Bill Abbott to perform his famous "Smart Ass" trick and then his Chico the Chimp puppet routing. He had everyone sucked in believing this monkey was real – an unbelievable performance! Robert Baxt took the stage for his segment and knocked it out of the ballpark! His "Linking Rings" from a haunting magician had everyone in hysterics! Totally perfect for a magic convention! Shawn Farquhar finished the night off with his Topsy Turvey Bottles, the Walking Knot, and of course his FISM winning "Shape of my Heart" routine that was projected up onto the big screen. A standing ovation was given to everyone at the end!

Robert Baxt introduced Mike Norden who gave away the 50/50 winning of \$138 and tons of door prizes! The dealers were open for an hour before the hospitality suite began. This evening we were in for a double treat as Jamie D. Grant was doing an interview with Bill Abbott and Daniel Garcia at 11 pm, followed by a séance with Philemon Vanderbeck at midnight. The event was so popular that the suite was crowded and my roommate came to bed early! Sunday morning the hotel had a breakfast special for all conventioners, and Mike Norden also provide Tim Horton's donuts and muffins for Tim's second lecture – how fitting!

Tim's new lecture was a storytelling / gospel theme. He comes from South Carolina which is deep in the bible belt so

he has to walk on tippy toes when lecturing in churches or for religious groups. The word magic is a bad word there! He had about 45 members in attendance and it was a very interactive lecture with an important message. If you ever do shows for churches or religious groups – or just want to add some storytelling to your magic, then Tim certainly has the answers!

Did I tell you that Houdini was born on 24 March and that Joan Caesar, a past president of I.B.M. was a very welcome conventioneer? Anyways, while Tim lectured a few paid extra money to have a master class taught by Daniel Garcia – and they went for almost 3 hours getting personal instruction! What a deal! The morning concluded with some Vancouver Theatre Sports group members known as "The Justice Pals" doing a improve workshop and show. They had us rolling in the aisles with the games and had the President and producer up on stage playing some wacky games that could be used as blackmail later on! What fun!

After the improv the dealers were open for a last dash for spending on some deals and then we were back into the ballroom for the "Anything Goes" competition. We had 9 people competing for the new trophy with a routine that was 5-8 minutes long. Mike Norden was the Emcee and ran the show like a well oiled machine! The competitors were: Diego Condit, Matthew Jones, Jason Verners, Bruce Meyers, Zach Daniel, Alex Seaman, Rod Chow, Leo Kanzelberger, and Logan Earle. With too much talent and hilarity to list all the details – in the end it was Rod Chow who was the winner with Alex Seaman in second and Zach Daniel in third. The Peoples' Choice winner was youngster Diego Condit, with a close second by Bruce Meyers! Fun was had by all!

Mike Norden took the stage one more time to thank everyone for attending. Gord Boyes, Bryn Williams, Neil Kremer, Bruce and Georgina Hunt, Shawn Farquhar, Dennis Hewson, Ray Roch, Dennis Chan, Craig Prystay, the Braybrookes, our

dealers, and myself (Munro) all got special mention. But Mike singled out Rod and Jack Chow for their extraordinary hard work ALL weekend long and brought them on stage to a standing ovation. Then Bruce Hunt came on stage to thank Mike Norden

for putting together the convention and the people were still on their feet cheering as we all slowly left the building.

I cannot wait for the next one.



Thanks to John Smithman for the wonderful photos!!!

For MANY MORE amazing memories of this very magical weekend, please visit:

<http://www.champions.ca/vmc.htm>



Clownin Around

Magic

Please continue to show your support and appreciation for Vancouver's ONLY (and very local) magic shop by visiting them on the web or on the 2nd floor of the Kids Market, Granville Island. (1496 Cartwright St, Vancouver, BC 604-682-0244)
-2010 VMC Executive

Well, what a weekend that was. Whew! The talent! Gives you a something to aim for, doesn't it? How nice to see people that I've seen on my shelves (okay, they are on DVD's, but you know what I mean) in the real live flesh. There is nothing more engaging than real live magic happening in real time right before your eyes. The unique combination of planned action and fast dancing as the practiced meets audience member participation!

I want to thank the organizers, Mike and Bruce to name but a few, for the great weekend – a lot of invisible work goes on to put an event on and to keep it running over the course of the weekend. So congrats all! I bet you slept till Wednesday!

One of those invisible people who are like a ninja, a Kabuki Theatre stage hand is Lori Farquhar. I don't know if anybody noticed because except for Shawn saying "my lovely bride of 27 years" (those Ozark people wed young!) you may have missed all the "spackley" things she did. (that's what I call anything that fills in the gaps – feel free to use it) Camera, props handing, back room sales. Did anyone really

hear a lot about her? No. Was she a vital part of the weekend? Yep! Those close-up shots were very important for us as an audience to share in the wonder of the magic. So thanks Lori. It's like Rod Chow hunched over the sound system eating McDonald's. Okay, he wasn't hunched and it was his son eating McDonald's, but it's a better story the way I tell it. Dennis with his 50/50 hat. And so many more. Where would the weekend be without those silent helpers? Mike and Bruce are at the fore front, and visible so they are easy to remember to thank. But thanks to all the people in the back ground who help keep the weekend running.

And maybe a note of thanks to the dealers who aren't the celebs of the weekend. It is costly for Murray to come from Victoria, or Tony K to give up a weekend of parties or me (I turned down work too) to bring Joe and have someone else in the store. Without us the weekend isn't quite as rounded. But we aren't the financial winners, the lecturers are, so it's more a labour of love. So when all the dust has settled and all the big names have left the building, remember to support your

local magic shop be it Clowning Around Magic Shop or Murray's Trick and Joke Shop.

I must have had 10 people come up and say "I bought my first trick at your store." To borrow a phrase from Shawn "How cool is that?"

One more thing, we are launching a new on line web store at www.VancouverMagicShop.com. The prices should be better than in the store. We are still working on that. It just means you buy on line. You can get pick up at the store for a fee. But if you don't need ANY help with your purchases then this is the way to go. Please, if you are on FaceBook, send the link to all your friends. We really do need you support.

If people you entertain, ask where to buy a magic kit for Christmas, send them to us. We don't sell that crap you can get at Toys R Us, Zellers, etc. They need good stuff that is built for their hands and age. Send the beginners to us. It is worth their time and effort and they avoid the comic book rip offs. They get taken care of and you get to have a brick and mortar magic shop in your community!

COMPETITION CORNER - submitted by Bryn Williams

Hi Folks! Your friendly neighborhood Competition and Awards Chairman here. I just wanted to take a few moments of your time to talk to you about the fabulous competitions offered by the VMC. There are SEVEN competitions throughout the year that span all genres of magic, many of them for juniors as well.

Any member of the VMC (in good standing) is welcome to compete, provided you contact me at least 24 hours in advance of the competition. Why should you compete? I'm glad you asked!

-It is an excellent way to practice and gain performance experience.

-You get valuable written and numeric feedback from experienced magicians and performers.

-Your name and photo will appear in the next issue of "The Magical Minutes"

-It's a great way to uphold your responsibility to perform once a year (as stated by our by-laws).

-You get to be a part of the rich history and brotherhood of your club.

-You get to contribute in making our monthly meetings fun and entertaining.

These competitions can't run without regular competitors. If you haven't competed in a while, I urge you to consider throwing your name into at least one of the competitions this year. Please contact me if you have any questions about any of the competitions or awards (or check out the website for more details about the individual contests). Our next competition takes place at our Christmas banquet on November 28th and is for the William Shelly Trophy (adult) and the Percy Poole Trophy (Junior) for Stage Magic!

I'll see you in the winners circle,

Bryn Williams

2010 Competition, Awards and Trophy Chairman

2010 Sargent-at-Arms

Hello X-elent Series community,

We're a month and a half away from the new year, which means a brand new X-elent Lecture Series season. It's going to be our eighth run, and I'm extremely proud of everybody who continually supports this circuit.

We have something special in our neighborhood. It's ours, we've worked hard, and it shows. Again, thank you all for helping to make X-elent Lecture Series so successful.

Now for the answer you've all been waiting for. Who is going to be on our eighth season run?

Drum roll please...

February 2011 - Martin Lewis - (Devilishly Clever)

April 2011 - Chad Long - (When funny meets skill)

June 2011 - Doc Eason - (Beautiful Bar Magic)

September 2011 - Wayne Houchin - (Power Magic)

November 2011- -Jay Sankey - (The one, the only!)

These guys have expressed how excited they are to share their

time with us. It's going to be a fantastic season! Thanks again for all your support in making X-elent Lecture Series triumphant.

By the way, exact dates and info for all 2011 lectures can be found on the X-elent website.

<http://www.xelentlectureseries.com>

Season 8, here we come! Have a great holiday season.

Cheers,

Lee Asher



Coming Events



Annual Christmas Dinner - November 28

CAM / PCAM Convention - July 28 to July 31, 2011



Our next Ring 92 meeting will be the Annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, November 28th, and will be at the Sand Hotel (1755 Davie Street, Vancouver). The cost will be \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for kids 12 and under. This includes your tip.



As part of your plans to attend coming events, please include a visit to Clownin Around Magic and help support our magic community.



We wish you a very **SAFE, FUN,**
and most of all, a very **MAGICAL**
festive season!

- 2010 VMC Executive