



# NOW YOU SEE IT...

The Monthly Newsletter for the Carl Moore Ring  
Ring 60 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians  
Austin, TX



Issue 11-7

July 2011



## From The President

*Mark Wilson, Ring 60 President*

It's good to be the Prez! Last night's meeting helped me to remember my own take on Mel Brooks' movie line because we had a great night of magic at our monthly meeting. The members of the Austin Magic Youth took the stage, the room, and the meeting by storm and entertained us all with their well-rehearsed presentations. The audience was treated to a show which contained mind reading effects, card effects, and classic effects such as the "Mis-Made" flag and "Hippity Hop" rabbits. Congratulations to the kids of the Austin Magic Youth Group, Chris Walden, and Bertil Fredstrom for all of their efforts!

A lot of things on the horizon for the club, we are planning another Heroes Night Out show in August (still not confirmed but plans are being made as I type) and if all goes well we will be performing in their new headquarters building that comes complete with stage, lighting and sound.

I have been attending meetings regarding the soon to be first annual "Doc Seaton's Magic Sideshow" (<http://www.magicsideshow.com/>) as I will be assisting with technical matters and performing as "Merlin The Wise, in addition to representing Ring 60". If you have not heard the news, the Sideshow has graciously donated a booth to our club so that we might use it to raise funds. So, now your club needs you! Since we will be having a both at the festival for Ring 60 we will need your help running it and promoting the club. The festival runs from September 24, 2011 11am-10pm and September 25, 2011 11am-8pm as part of the Pecan Street festival, a long running festival event in the Austin area. If you would like to help the club out please contact me or Carlos and let us know that you would like to get involved.

My summer is about halfway over but there is still time to perform some magic. I just booked a show at a kids toy-store on the square in Georgetown Texas (my home town) and I still have at least one other date on the calendar to fulfill before the summer ends. (I just did a string of music gigs so I am ready for some magic) Of course, I also have to start planning for next year's Merlin show at Sherwood Forest Faire.

If you can make it to next month's meeting then please come on out as our topic is "Magic With a Message" with our special presenter – Jim Dunn, who has been using magic in his marketing efforts for many years. See you then!

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## ex emendator

*Chris Walden*

The newsletter is later than I like, but with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and all that it was not possible to bring it out any earlier. Edward continues his tips and thoughts. It's always good to see a young mind *thinking* about magic rather than just exercising the fingers. Edward also stepped in to write the meeting notes in Carlos' absence. Thanks for the extra work!

A lot going on with me this month. During the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend I was in San Antonio, visiting Donna's (my wife) family. She wanted to go spend a day with her sisters, so my daughter, Catherine, and I got to go on adventures. We hit the Ripley's museum and the wax museum, ending at a little Middle-Eastern restaurant close to her grandparents' house. It's always fun to see those sorts of weird things through a new set of eyes.

Those of you who made it to the July meeting saw the results of months of dedicated effort by the Austin Magic Youth. I'm extremely proud of these kids. You can read more about all of that in the meeting notes for July and the update on the Austin Magic Youth.

I also did my debut performance as Saul "Doc" Ravencraft with the Museum of the Weird. This has been the result of a few years worth of effort between me and the owner of the Museum to create weird experiences for people rather than just doing "magic tricks." I don't mean that to offend. I do love magic and enjoy many mainstream magic shows, but those who know me well know that I've had a need to do something a little different. Well, it's all starting. The first private event worked well and we'll be looking toward ways to bring it more into public offerings. Keep an eye on the [museumoftheweird.com](http://museumoftheweird.com) or [texasmojoman.com](http://texasmojoman.com) to keep up with details as they emerge.



## From the Sergeant at Arms

*Edward Boswell*

A story I learned when talking to Asi Wind at the IBM Convention:

"There was a magician, one that died long before I was born. He could fill the theater every night and throughout his performance you could hear a pin drop.

"If you ask anyone today... majority of the time they will mention his name: Harry Houdini. He is one of the top 10 most recognized names in the world.

"Throughout Houdini's career he had a challenge, that he could escape any pair of cuffs. One night, a master locksmith brought forward some shackles that he has worked on for over 3 years. Houdini accepted the challenge. The locks were put on and he went behind a curtain to escape. After 15 minutes without a sound, he emerged sweaty and hot, but still locked up. He kindly asked for some water and went back to work. 15 more minutes passed. With pure silence with the occasional shout from the audience that 'Houdini can't do it.'

"Houdini emerged again, sweating even more. He asked the locksmith if they could take the locks off so that he could remove his jacket, for he was really hot. The locksmith refused, for Houdini has to escape or else he will void his title as the best escape artist.

"Houdini proceeded to pull out a knife from his pocket with just his teeth. And cut and ripped the jacket to shreds. He went back behind the curtain to finish the escape.

"Time passed. Minutes seemed like hours. Time had no meaning, for this was the telling moment. Can Houdini escape anything?

"After a full hour, he emerged victorious. He handed the locks to the locksmith and took a bow. For the audience were on their feet, giving the best standing ovation."

So why did I tell you this story? Because Houdini did something that we all can learn from. He created an element of Failure. He made it so real, that it truly became magic.

And that is what magic is about. To bring the spectators into our world, to make them believe, and to provide great entertainment.

*[If nothing you do can ever fail, at least in the minds of your audience, then how can you ever achieve the impossible? – cMw]*

## Last Meeting

*Edward Boswell*

The July meeting, featuring our Austin Magic Youth, was fantastic! First, I would like to thank Chris Walden for doing such a great job as an MC and a guiding force for our young prestidigitators. The show started off with fantastic introductions by the MC.

First up was **Derek!** He started out eating a little paper, which then became streams and streams of paper coming from his mouth, it was unbelievable! He went on to a very fitting trick, the miss-made flag. It was perfect for July. After a lot of humor, he finally made the right flag, which he gave much respect and folded it up very nicely. To end, he pulled out a arm chopper with a great routine.

Second up was **Kayson!** She started out with a card trick that I have never seen before. She had a bunch of cards with different numbers on them. The spectator thought of one of the numbers. She showed the other cards with the different numbers. In the end she revealed the right number. It was great! She ended with a great presentation of the 21 card trick, finding a thought-of card.

Third up was **Catherine!** She began with a story about a class mate as she broke and restored a pencil. Next she demonstrated how she magically managed her money at the candy store, changing quarters into pennies to make sure she got the right change. Finally, had a spectator select a card. The room became silent and she began to read the spectator's mind. Her presentation was astounding. I wonder where she got that from? (cough – cough – Chris) I was enthralled. Great Job!

The last act was **AJ!** He shuffled a deck of cards face up into face down. Then he did it again. It really looked like a mess. He waved his hands over it and all the cards where face up and separated into suits. Amazing! I have never seen that trick done in that way before. It was brilliant. He ended the show with a classic Hippity-Hop Rabbits with a great story of when he first saw the trick.

After all the performers took a bow, they took seats up front for a Q & A session with the club. Their answers were very enlightening. In the end, I believe the whole club agreed. **The Kids did a Fantastic job!** If you weren't there you missed out on a very good show. Ask around and see if you can see some video.

The night ended with Open Mic, which is always a good experience to help members improve.

**Mark Wilson**

And lastly, **Larry Johnson** performed the whole thing and the do nothing machine.

It was a great meeting and good job to everyone!

## Next Meeting

“Magic with a message” has become a bit of a buzz word (or is it buzz phrase?). Yet it’s true that magic devoid of meaning or purpose becomes little more than a puzzle. Jim Dunn is going to tackle the topic of putting messages in your magic. You don’t need to be a trade-show magician to need messaging in your magic. These techniques will help you add elements that will make your magic relevant to any audience.

If you don’t know Jim, he was the one with the Witch Hazel puppet at the Austin Street Magic Festival in 2010. If you didn’t see that, then you should read this article from the [Texas Co-op Power](#) magazine. This will be a working, thinking meeting and you will walk out of it with ideas to get more impact out of your magic.



## Lecture Update

*Chris Walden*

There hasn’t been much lecture activity for the moment. We passed on a couple of lectures because there was not sufficient interest to support bringing them. These announcements are always made through the Ring 60 discussion forum and I act based on feedback I receive.

I have spoken to the Ring 60 Board about the lectures and have sought some direction for where we want to go with them next. It is my opinion that Austin may be in less need of the traditional lectures as many of the smaller communities because we have a very open and giving group of professionals in the area. Perhaps we need some special events. We are exploring alternatives to taking people from the “lecture circuit,” including inviting specific performers to do a special lecture and workshop in Austin that we make available to everyone. I’m open to feedback and suggestions about what you want from our lectures. Send anything to [lectures@ibmring60.org](mailto:lectures@ibmring60.org).

## Austin Magic Youth

*Chris Walden*

This month’s meeting was a tech rehearsal for the show that everyone did during the Ring 60 meeting. I want to say how proud I was at all of the participants for approach this program with a professional attitude. I think that everyone who participated brought their A game and that the results would have been appreciated by many kinds of audiences, not just a room full of polite magicians. **Bertil Fredstrom** did a lot of the direction with the kids, helping to shape the show into what was ultimately performed. He also quietly worked behind the scenes switching out microphones and helping to monitor the sound.

I think that **Derek, Kayson, Catherine** and **AJ** are all due thanks for their work. I think you’re going to see more good things from them in the future. There were other members who were not able to be a part of the performance due to their Summer schedules. Every one of them would have been a good addition to the show and I’m sorry that you weren’t able to see them at this time.

I know that for some, the idea of having kids hanging around a magic club is confusing. I hope that these kids demonstrated that they have a dedication

## Other News

### Come to the Ice Cream Festival

*Kent Cummins*

YOU are invited to perform and promote the magic clubs in Austin at the 5th Annual Ice Cream Festival at

Waterloo Park!

Doc Seaton organized a bunch of willing wizards at the very first ice cream festival, and is doing so again for the 5th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, August 13, from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm. Come one come all for all or part of that time...it will be FUN!

You will also have a chance to watch some of Austin's favorite entertainers on the family stage:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 11:00 am | John Maverick, Austin's 2nd Best Magician |
| 1:00 pm  | Bonzo Crunch, Fool at Large               |
| 3:00 pm  | Ian Varella, Puppeteer/Ventriloquist      |
| 5:00 pm  | "The Fantastic Kent Cummins!"             |

And of course The Fantastic Magic Camp will have a booth full of energetic young entertainers.

Waterloo Park is Austin's wonderful downtown park at 14th Street and Trinity. There is parking at the state lot on the corner. Let Doc know that you are coming, and he will get you a Performer's Pass.

Here's the official information: <http://www.roadwayevents.com/RoadStar/Events-cat.asp?media1Id=1324>

## Ring 60 Calendar

Here is a list of planned activities for Ring 60 in 2011. You can also see the calendar on-line at [ibmring60.org](http://ibmring60.org)

### August

#### **1st – Monthly Meeting – Magic With a Message.**

Developing magic with a message for marketing and teaching opportunities.

#### **20th – Monthly Clinic – Topic to be announced**

### September

#### **Monthly Meeting – TAOM (no meeting)**

#### **17th – Monthly Clinic – Topic to be announced**

### October

#### **3rd – Monthly Meeting – National Lecture Night of Texas.**

Bring your dollars! This is the one time lecture notes are all the same price! We usually have a full house at this meeting so plan to come early to get a good seat.

#### **15th – Monthly Clinic – Topic to be announced**

### November

#### **7th – Monthly Meeting – Magic in the Camera's Eye.**

Performing magic for a camera? Things you need to know. Hosted by Mark Wilson

#### **19th – Monthly Clinic – Topic to be announced**

### December

#### **5th – Monthly Meeting – Past Presidents Night.**

Another club favorite. See old friends! Former presidents of the club get together and show their stuff.

#### **17th – Monthly Clinic – Topic to be announced**