



NOW YOU SEE IT...

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



Issue 11-10

October 2011



From The President

Mark Wilson, Ring 60 President

Well for many of us October is magic month. The same is true for me, as I always receive some last minute calls to perform a show for a neighborhood get together or fall festival. Of course I always feel like I'm missing out on the Halloween I remember as a child, since nowadays I'm always dressing up like another character all through the year – not just at Halloween. For many folks, Halloween is a festive time of the year.

Speaking of a festive time, one of the performances I did last week was for a small law firm, with about 15 employees – one who I found out later was named "Elvira". (How's that for a Halloween theme?) I was told it had a carnival theme and so dressing up as Merlin would be totally appropriate. When I arrived I immediately began performing, walking right up to the first lady who seemed to not be involved in any conversation and ready to see some magic. (not Elvira – I really wish it had been!) Unbeknownst to me she apparently had started her festivities several hours earlier when she began drinking as the firm supplied "special magical elixir" in the form of an open bar, so the margaritas and wine had been flowing freely for the better part of the day. My latest opener is Merlin's take on the Gypsy ring and chain. (sorry, don't know if that is the correct name). The way I perform it, I loop the chain on the spectator's hand, I thread the ring on the chain - let go of the ring as I step back and it drops and always links (assuming I don't miss) and they are left with the linked ring on the end of the chain. In this case the woman in her intoxicated state, just dropped the whole thing on the ground. About this time I realized I had "chosen poorly" and the full realization of my predicament became obvious to me. I was suddenly reminded of Jimmy Fingers 2010 TAOM performance near the bar in the lobby downstairs. He too had picked a winner! In my case I was able to try again with slightly better results. Though the lady in question still seemed to not respond in any conscious way. I quickly found another victim.

October also brings our club some sad news. Bill Boswell, a long time member of our club and father to our friend and current Sargent-at-Arms Eddie Boswell, passed away after a long battle with cancer. Besides his love of magic and his son's interest in performing, Bill was a lover of music and audio engineering, something that he and I both shared. I feel fortunate to have been able to visit with him over the years and see him share his interest in music with Eddie. He always had a smile on his face, and I will miss his positive attitude regarding life.

Last month was a very busy month with the Magic Side Show, where I got to perform on 6th street for the first time. I also helped with the sound by supplying some of the equipment and locating crew members to run it. In the process, made a few new magical friends. One of the sound men I hired to

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work the show got the magic bug, so we now have a possible new member. Overall the sideshow was a success. We made some good headway on raising funds for the club by selling magic at our club booth. I would like to thank everyone who contributed time and effort to make the event a success. Next year will be even better! The organizers have already met to begin planning for next year's sideshow.

Thanks for reading, and next month, be sure to join us at our regular meeting on November 7th. We will be discussing videotaping magic.



ex emendator

Chris Walden

I am in a real crunch to get this newsletter out this month! We did not have a newsletter last month because everyone was pretty much too magicked out with TAOM, the Magic Sideshow and everything else. Of course, this month people are busy too and I am especially busy with activities at the Musuem of the Weird as Doc Ravenscraft. I'm guessing most of you are busy

too.

I want to take a moment to speak about my friend, Bill Boswell, who passed away last week. I didn't get to know Bill as well as I should have. He was always a joyful presence for me and he continuously introduced me to different ways of thinking and added many books to my library through his suggestions. I am changed through knowing him. I will miss him. My condolences go to Eddie and all the family.

Last Meeting

Carlos Santillan

Ring President, **Mark Wilson**, quickly got announcements and club business out of the way. Vice President, **Carlos Santillan**, presented a special award to past president, **JD Stewart**. At the recent Doc Seton Magic Sideshow, during one of his many performances of the Houdini Chain Escape, JD asked if there was someone in crowd with a chain. Much to his surprise someone stepped up with a chain. JD started to use it when he notice that his lock would not fit the chain but, Austin Magic Youth member, Catherine Walden, raised her hand from the crowd with a smaller lock. JD performed his chain escape with a *borrowed chain and lock!* He was presented with his very own Houdini Escape Kit (provided by Kent Cummins).

The night's theme was "National Lecture Night of Texas", started by **Bill Amstead** in the early 1980's and led by **Lou Hornung** for the past twenty-five years. We had over 40 ring members and guests for this meeting. The program consists of a series of mini lectures, with each lecturer presenting a short magic piece, which he performs and teaches. Lecture notes or gimmick are offered for sale at \$1.

Arsene Dupin kicked off the lecture night by showing a quick coin routine in which a coin is dropped to the floor picked up, quickly vanishes and is seen back on the floor, picked up, and again quickly vanishes. He explained the different moves he used. The routine is based on an old chestnut which is greatly enhanced by the finesse, interludes and flourishes that Arsene demonstrated.

Robert Castillo showed his hands empty then stunningly sponge card pips appeared in his hands— Clubs, Hearts, Spades and Diamonds. A spectator cut a deck of cards into four piles. Robert placed the pips next to each of the piles, turned the top cards over to show that the aces were cut to with suites matching the sponge pips. Robert talked about the techniques he used to make the pips appear after showing his hands empty.

Michael Collins called his lecture "Things My Dad Taught Me" and spoke about games that he had learned in his youth. He taught how to make eucalyptus paper trees out of old news papers, and how to make popsicle stick bombs (frame bombs) that sailed across the room. Michael provided notes and references for those interested in further exploration.

Shane Delon spoke about Showmanship, he demonstrated and talked about different techniques used to improve performance, including advice on entering the stage, how to give attention to the whole audience and how to make one's self the star of the show! Shane provided notes with the tips he discussed as well as information on other resources. This is serious stuff for the serious magician. Shane expertly lightened it up to make it enjoyable for all.

Edward Boswell resisted his usual flawless sleight of hand by demonstrating some finesse with the mind. Using four cards he predicted the suit that a spectator would choose and then proceeded to change the values of the cards to aces! He explained that if the psychological force were on vacation one would have to resort to equivoque or outright bluff. Not the kind of magic for everyone but it sure looks like a lot of fun as Eddie presents it!

Robert Merrill explained his need of an effective false cut, and how he enjoys collecting them. He demonstrated and explained several. They are very deceptive yet most are rather easy to do. Robert managed to get all the serious finger flickers motivated judging from all the decks that broke out at the end of the meeting.

Jason Heinig (Solaris) performed a wonderful routine in which coins appeared out of thin air, disappeared from one spot to later appear. He then proceeded to explain each phase of the routine. He identified all moves as being found in Bobo's Modern Coin Magic. It was nice seeing Jason back with us again.

Jim Baldauf showed a couple of different effects where he vanished coins, balls, changed the color knife on his key chain, he even made a bottle cap go through the bottom of a bottle. He then explained the gimmick that he had developed to make all the effects possible. He wasn't selling the gimmicks for \$1, but he identified where they are commercially available.

To finish the night Arsene Dupin returned to show a card trick, in which a card a selected card disappeared from the deck, and reappeared under the mat, after showing the selected card he pointed to his shoe that had appeared on the table out of nowhere. Arsene explained the misdirection that he used.

It was a pleasant evening undoubtedly leaving all hungry for next year's edition.

Next Meeting

Magic in the Camera's Eye

Have you ever watched a magician performing for video and just thought the whole thing was a mess? Think of all the videos on YouTube of people doing magic in front of their pants with no personality. Performing magic for a camera has different considerations than performing for a regular audience. When you are working with both there are additional complications. Mark Wilson, who teaches video production for Austin Community College, is going to help us understand how to play to the camera and what every performer can do to improve their video presence. We're going to try to set up an actual video feed to help demonstrate all of the techniques discussed. This will be a very unique meeting as only Ring 60 can do it.



Lecture Update

Chris Walden

Those of you who weren't too magicked out by TAOM joined us at the fantastic Heroe's Night Out facility for Doug Anderson. Doug brought a lot to the table. He shared in detail his approach to selling a restaurant on magic. This included research and selection, tailoring the pitch and negotiating the deal. He also covered his approach to working with the staff to become a part of their environment rather than just a stranger. Doug then explained his entire restaurant routine, exactly as he has done it for years. While the effects were not new to experienced performers

his explanations of how one item led into another, prop and pocket management and other details made it a lesson in revisiting what you think you already know.

Doug also spent time answering specific questions about the business of magic. He provided us with a fantastic resource for inexpensive printing of promotional materials. He shared a lot of wisdom gained from his time as a theme park performer, trade show pitch man and cruise ship performer that is not available in any of his books or DVDs. He said that some information needs to be shared in person and he saves it for people who attend the lecture.

Doug exceeded my expectations. I knew he was going to be good, but I did not realize that he would open up to the level that he did, offering freely whatever he could to answer the questions that people had.

Next Lecture

Tom Craven is going to be in town on Thursday, November 17. The lecture will again be held at the Heroes Night Out Facility. Here are just a few of Tom's lauds and honors:

- First person to receive the "Spirit Of Magi-Fest" Award,
- One of only two people to have attended all 41 of the Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic (F.F.F.F.) Conventions
- Guest Of Honor F.F.F.F. (Back in the 1980's)
- 10 time winner of the IBM Ring #2 "Magician Of The Year"
- Trade Show Worker Full Time, 1977-1984
- Worked the Close-Up Gallery at the 1981, 1985, 1989, 2009, 2010
- Worked the Parlor at the Magic Castle 2011

Tom's lecture will include material from his new book, "My (Almost) 50 Years in Magic" plus material from his Linking Ring column. Tom's focus is on close-up and trade show styles of performances.

Who: Tom Craven

When: 7:30 - 10:00 PM

Where: Where: Heroes Night Out Facility, 1150 S Bell Blvd, Cedar Park, TX 78613 ([map](#))

Cost: \$15 for Ring 60 or SAM Assembly 206 Members, \$20 for non-members

Austin Magic Youth

Chris Walden

We had a good meeting after the September break with performances from many members. I apologize for not having better information, but the dog ate my notes this month so I don't have details for you. We were very pleased to get *another* new participant, Noah. Noah already has a background in performing through his church and other activities. He even shared something on his first night. Way to go!

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 7, 5:30 PM. The library will be back and we'll have a teaching session too. Make sure that you're signed up for the discussion list by sending email to austin_magic_youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. If you have questions you can email or call Chris Walden (chris@mythmade.com; 512-996-9019) or Bertil Fredstrom (512-423 9810).

Monthly Clinics

Roger Gorss

Last Clinic — The Art of Personal Readings

In October, Shane Delon and Chris Walden presented a clinic on doing readings with pendulums, numerology, Tarot and palm reading. The goal was to give performers a feeling for what a reading could be like and offer tools that would allow them to start playing with readings almost immediately. Being able to say something about your audience with a brief look at their palm or based on the card they have chosen can add a mysterious element to your performance. Some participants put these ideas to use almost immediately and reported that they were fun and successful.

Next Clinic — November 17, Eddie Boswell

In November, Cody Fisher will be with us for an unusual workshop. Cody will build information based on the requests of attendees. This is your chance to get an answer from a successful, hard-working professional in a very friendly and informal setting. Watch the mailing list for a note from Roger explaining how to submit your questions and what to expect from the format. In the mean time, clear your calendar!

What: Workshop with Cody Fisher

When: Saturday, November 17, 2011, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: Texas Magic Supply, Cedar Park ([map](#))

Cost: Free to Ring 60 members. \$5 for non-members.

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

November

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

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

17th – Tom Craven Lecture – see details elsewhere in the newsletter

19th – Monthly Clinic – Cody Fisher's "You asked for it"

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

Don't forget the web site! <http://ibmring60.org/>