

Upcoming Ring Events

- Next Meeting – July 3, 7:00pm
Rope Workshop with Bob Knigge
- July 12 – Gray Fun Fest Block Party Show
- August meeting theme – Magic Sports

Ring Officers

President – **Scot Price**
Vice-President – **Dan Wolfe**
Treasurer – **Clift Mitchell**
Secretary – **Andrew Hyder**
Sergeant-At-Arms – **David Larkins**

Open Magic Showcased at June Meeting

June's meeting kicked off with the Magician of the Month competition. There was no theme this month so anyone could perform anything they wished.

Matt Watts started things off with a trick of Rachel Wild's where a spectator is shown two packs of cards and then tells the magician to either deal or shuffle X number of cards. Once the stacks have been shuffled the magician turns over the cards and both stacks match. He followed this up with a "Do-as-I-do" routine where the spectator follows the magician's moves but never gets it right.

David Larkins entertained us with an 8-card Brainwave routine. A spectator was asked to look at several cards and to think of one. He was then asked to change his mind so even HE could not have known what card he was going to choose. David removed this card to the side while telling us he had made a prediction. After showing the blue backs of all the other cards he turned over the thought of card and it had a red back. David followed up with Ed Marlo's Estimation Aces. After several shuffles of the deck, David was able to cut to three Aces before counting down perfectly to the last one.

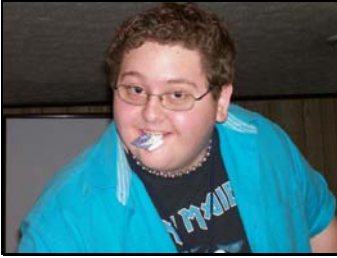
The last competitor for June was Scot Price. Scot went mental on us. He handed Mike Lewis a piece of paper and asked Mike to write the name of a movie on it. The paper was tore and placed in a black bag for Mike to hold onto. After asking Mike a few questions Scot was able to name the leading actor and the movie.

When the votes were in we had a tie for Magician of the Month. Congratulations to David Larkins and Scot Price.

IBM Ring 355 News & Notes

- We want to welcome new member Kevin Harrison to the ring. Kevin is from Greenville, Tn.; and he does a very good Cups and Balls routine.
- Tony Gray visited us for the June meeting and we hope to wrangle him into the club too.
- Bob Knigge will be conducting his rope workshop at the July meeting. See the flyer at the end of this issue for more details.
- It was mentioned at the June meeting about moving the next meeting from July 3 to July 10 due to the 4th of July. After discussion it was decided to leave the next meeting on July 3.
- We are also looking to do a fundraiser later this year. We need ideas on this and lots of help.

Member Spotlight on Matt Watts



I have been a fan of magic for 11 years .I have only been serious about performing magic for three years now. My favorite area of magic is stage. I do not perform professionally, but I intend to one day. I guess you could say that I am still waiting for my big break .I grew up in many of different areas of East Tennessee. Throughout my life I have lived in many different places after my parents divorced. I was five years old when my love for magic began. I would always kind of use magic as an escape from my rough childhood .I have always enjoyed magic and I couldn't imagine doing anything else. I am currently a junior at Dobyns-Bennett High School. As well as magic, I enjoy music, poetry, psychology, and the paranormal. If I could change one thing in my past I wouldn't, because it leads to what I am now.

How long have you been interested in magic? It all started at the age of 5. When my mom was going through a divorce we would go to Garfield's and watch J. Errol Nelson. I would watch him do magic in amazement.

Who was the first magician you remember seeing perform?

J. Errol Nelson and about a year later Dave Vaught came to my school.

What is your favorite area of magic? Stage

Who is your favorite magician? Jeff McBride

If a complete stranger came up to you and asked to see some magic, what would you perform? Vernon's Variant

What is your favorite thing about being in the ring? I enjoy learning new effects, getting feedback on old effects, and learning as much as I can about my craft. I enjoy just hanging out with friends and having a good time. I don't look at it as a ring. I look at it as a family. A very unusual family at that.

Its dinner time and you can invite any three magicians from any time.

Who do you invite? Jeff McBride, Johnny Thompson, and Dai Vernon. All three of these magicians have, or had, a lot of magical wisdom to share and I am out to learn as much as possible.

What three magic books would you recommend? I don't read as much as I should but here are two good books that I like. *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic*. This is a nice beginners' book with a lot of good stuff. Also, Harry Anderson's *Wise Guy*.

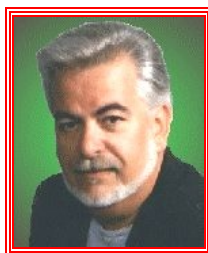
But if you like DVDs I would recommend Richard Turner's *The Cheat*, *Romaine-Monarch of Manipulation*, and Jeff McBride's *Expert Manipulations Set*.

Do you see magic in your future plans? Yes, that is for sure. I would love to make a comfortable living doing magic.

If you go to college do you plan on taking drama or theater classes to help with your magic? I am not sure that I will go to college, but where ever my magic takes me I will be glad to follow.

Coming Thursday - July 3rd

Magic with Ropes Workshop with Bob Knigge



It is Entertainment We Provide. Magic is Simply the Vehicle

A few simple tricks and moves are the basic tools for a high quality presentation and may assist in putting together a very professional act.

WHAT TO BRING:

1. *One pair of plain old tin snips. (Not Scissors) They must cut rope cleanly and easily.*
2. *Several 10ft lengths of good quality, soft rope.*
3. *Two or three 6ft lengths, with the center core removed*
4. *Two 12 inch sections of ¼ inch wood doweling for each of the 6ft ropes.*
5. *A small note book and a WOODEN Pencil*

WORKSHOP:

1. *Presentational ideas with the "Gag" rope we'll make.*
2. *Preparation of ropes we'll use during the workshop.*
3. *20 minute Break.*
4. *I will demonstrate and explain some effects using easy-to-learn rope moves.*
5. *I'll present and teach a few effects in a workshop style.*
**Attendees will be invited to share ideas, moves and presentations during this section.*
6. *Open forum in which we'll help one another in learning rope subject matter.*

****Notices:**

1. *Please, Please concentrate on the subject at hand; ROPES.
I enjoy cards and coins as much as anyone, but NOT during the workshop.
If you must, please step to another room.*
2. *You MUST make time to locate and bring the ropes and tools needed.*

Gray Fun Fest Block Party July 12 , 6:00 PM – Appalachian Fairgrounds

Here are the details on the July 12 show. The show will start at 6:00 pm. If you are planning on helping or performing please make sure you are ready to go by 5:30-5:45. Exact location is not determined yet but we can set up a time and meet at the Community Center.

We will have a 10x16 stage. We will need to provide our own music, sound and backdrop if we want/need it. I think we have enough mics between us all. And I can get a sound system. But, if someone has a backdrop or two, that would be good.

Of course if it rains then this is cancelled. We cannot perform outside in the rain.

I will be contacting those that have volunteered to see what you want to perform so we can get a show together.

Ring 355 Entertains at Madison House

We had three people show up for the show at Madison House Assisted living. It was a good time. If you have never performed for a nursing home you are really missing out...in more ways than one. They must have liked us because they want the ring to come back for Assisted Living Week in September. We'll plan more on that in the near future.

Upcoming Magic Conventions

July 21-26 – IBM/SAM Combined Convention
Louisville, KY.

August 6-9 – Abbott's Get-Together
Colon, MI.

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Colon, MI.

August 7-9 – Mid-West Magic Jubilee
St. Louis, MO.

Aug 12-16 – KIDabra
Pigeon Forge, TN.

Aug 21-23 – SEAM (Southeastern Association of Magicians)
Atlanta, GA.

Sept 26-27 – Carolina Close-up Convention
Charlotte, NC

November - Unconventional – Corbin, KY

Upcoming Meeting Themes

July – Bob Knigge rope workshop
August – Magic Sports (details soon)
September – Coin Magic

Upcoming Mini-Lectures

3 Card Monte – Clift Mitchell

Torn & restored Newspaper – Dan Wolfe

The Magic of Public Speaking – Clift Mitchell

(Dates to be determined)

What is Magic Sports?

Our August theme is going to be Magic Sports so I thought it would be good to let you know what to look forward to.

We will be split up into two teams (three if enough people show up) and given NON-Magical items at random. Each team has a time limit (15-20 minutes) to create a routine using the items they have. You score points for using items and for how many team members are involved.

Magic Sports has been around since the early 1990s and it is great for stimulating creativity. If you want to practice before August, just walk around your house and pick up something and ask yourself how that could be used in a magic trick.

A TOUGH ACT TO SWALLOW



Herb Zarrow Passes Away at Age 82



Herb Zarrow was perhaps best known for the shuffle that bears his name. Since the creation of the Zarrow Shuffle, Mr. Zarrow's name has been used in magic books in the strangest ways: as a noun "...after losing the Aces do a Zarrow," as an adjective "...do a Zarrow full-deck false shuffle," even as a verb, "...now Zarrow under two cards." The shuffle however is just the tip of the iceberg as far as describing this very unique gentleman whose love of magic and magicians has spanned a lifetime.

Born on November 4, 1925 in Paterson, New Jersey, like many future magicians, Herb Zarrow became interested in magic through magic sets and magic books. Later, he credited Dai Vernon for changing his outlook on magic and described the event in the Vernon Chronicles. "During the period surrounding 1946 and 1947, my very close friend, Dr. Lewis Leeson, and I attended Vernon's two lectures in New York. We were young and not long in magic. These were the beginnings of lectures as we now know them and they were the best lectures I've ever witnessed." Mr. Zarrow wrote, adding "Our eyes almost popped out as we watched miracle after miracle."

So afterward, Mr. Vernon and Mr. Zarrow became very close friends with Vernon performing many of Zarrow's routines during his many appearances around the world -- and on occasion these routines and sleights became so popular that they were inadvertently published with the credit going to either Vernon who showed it to the writer or a third party who saw Vernon do the routine and decided to take credit. Several of the sleights and routines have been given proper credit since their original appearance; among them the now renamed "Zarrow's Revolving Aces" and the "Zarrow Block Addition."

Of course Mr. Zarrow was best known for what has come to be known as the Zarrow Shuffle, which he originally called "Full Deck False Shuffle." This sleight has been called one of the best card discoveries of the 20th century -- done well it is without a doubt the most natural looking false shuffle ever created. It is so deceptive that it's one of the very few card sleights which have crossed from magic to the world of card cheating where it is commonly used.

Johnny Thompson enjoys telling the story of the first time he saw the Zarrow Shuffle performed. "Harry Riser, at my request, asked Herb to demonstrate his false shuffle. Herb said he would, but prefaced his reply by saying he needed to warm up first. He opened his car door and began to riffle shuffle a pack of cards on the front seat. After some nine or ten shuffles I turned to Harry and said; 'He seems warmed up to me, when is he going to do the shuffle?' Harry smiled and said 'He is -- that's the Zarrow Shuffle you're watching!' Well I truly couldn't believe my eyes. Up until that moment I had never been fooled by a false shuffle and I was fooled! I honestly believed he was really shuffling the cards. "Witnessing Herb flawlessly execute the Zarrow Shuffle that day will always remain one of my fondest magical recollections."