

## Upcoming Ring Events

- Next Meeting –  
Dec. 4, 7:00pm  
Theme  
“Holiday/Christmas”  
Magic
- December 12  
Christmas Party  
6:30-9:00

## Ring Officers

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



## Huge Number of Magi Turn Out For Our November Meeting.

(Exit polls show the meeting was a success)

11 members and 8 visitors attended our meeting on November 4. Visitors included Michael Aubrey (and his sister and her friend), Caleb Hommel, Landon Roberson, Chris Morris, Michael Jones and his grandson Cameron Cook. We hope you all had a great time and decide to come again.

After a brisk business meeting (see News and Notes on page 2) we got right into our competition. Our theme for the month was Political or Paper Magic. **Andrew Hyder** started us off with his *Presidential Prediction*. He had a spectator name any political figure past or present. After JFK was named, Andrew pulled a prediction correctly naming JFK. He closed his part by performing the *Japanese Love Letter*.

**Matt Watts** was up next and started off with an *Appearing McCane*. Very funny. He then had three volunteers write down a three digit number. A fourth then added up the numbers. The total matched a prediction that was hanging on the wall in full sight since the beginning of the meeting.

**Tobe Wolfe** followed by having a helper tear up several sheets of wrapping tissue and then restoring it into a hat for the volunteer.

**Clift Mitchell** had a volunteer to stop him at a page number in a book. He asked the volunteer to remember the page number and then to choose a word from that page to memorize. After several unsuccessful attempts to name the word, the volunteer was asked to reveal the page number. Upon re-opening the book that page was missing and was revealed from an envelope.

To end the competition **Dan Wolfe** gave a quick peak at his very own *Big Money* trick.

After the votes were tabulated it was announced that Clift Mitchell is our November Magician of the Month. Congratulations!

After the competitions it was time for Dan's mini-lecture on *Torn and Restored Newspaper*. Dan's version is a variation of Slydini's T&R newspaper. Dan brought enough newspapers for everyone to join in the fun and learn this trick. After Dan demonstrated the trick we each took newspapers and followed along as Dan went step-by-step through the setup and moves. I felt like I was back in crafts class at school. There were even plenty of papers left for us to take home and make our own. Many felt this teach-in was worth the price of joining the ring.

After the newspaper lecture the meeting broke into small groups and discussions. Per the norm, a few of us ended up at Perkins till mid-night.

Next meeting is **December 4**.

## IBM Ring 355 News & Notes

- During the December meeting we will be having a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Everyone should bring a \$15 gift if you want to participate.
- Anyone interested in going to see Terry Evanswood's Christmas show in Pigeon Forge should contact Andrew Hyder at [aphyder@yahoo.com](mailto:aphyder@yahoo.com) or at phone 423-213-9312. Tickets are normally \$28 but for magicians only around \$12. This is a great deal for a great show.
- We will be having an induction ceremony for any new members at the **January** meeting. So if you are thinking of joining the club now would be a good time.
- Congratulations to member Jessica Brooks who will be graduating from ETSU on Dec 13.
- First-time visitors to the ring are now presented with welcome kits. The kits include a short history of IBM, and IBM application, Ring 355 information, a Linking Ring magazine and some magic tricks.
- Matt Fore will be lecturing for our ring in early 2009. We will keep you posted.

### HO HO HO!

This year's Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 12 from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at *Fun Expedition* in Johnson City. The pizza buffet is \$5/person. Gaming tickets start at \$10 for 1 hour of play. They have putt-putt, go-carts, video games, bowling and more. **Bring the whole family!**

### New Feature Coming to our Ring Meetings.

Starting in our December meeting we will be adding a Member Spotlight. Each month a ring member will take 10-15 minutes and teach a move, or give a book or DVD review, show a collection or anything else magic related. This would give some of our members who don't prefer to perform, something to add to the benefit of the ring at the meetings.

### 2008 Unconventional Report

During the first weekend in November, the DuPont Lodge at Cumberland Falls plays host to Ring 198's annual "unconventional" convention. This year, the special guest was none other than Doc Eason! I would estimate that there were probably 100-150 attendees. Doc's performance and lecture had to be one of the biggest highlights of the convention. As a working magician for over 35 years, Doc's mantra has always been: "People won't remember you for what you do, they remember you for the way you made them feel." What would any convention be without the late night jam sessions? The jams at unconventional have to be among the best anywhere! I recommend to anyone that reads this to call DuPont Lodge now, and make your reservations for next year.

- David Larkins

### Winter Carnival Update

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival of Magic will be March 5-7, 2009. They have announced that the entire Saturday night show will be by *The Pendragons*.

There is a rumor that a couple of our ring members will be taking part in the magic competitions.

### World Magic Awards

The 2008 World Magic Awards will be broadcast on MyNetworkTV on November 26 at 8:00 pm.

Hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, performers will include Jeff McBride, The Amazing Jonathan, Franz Harary, Lance Burton, Topas & Roxanne, Kalin & Jinger, Dan Sperry, Hans Klok, Kirby Van Birch and more!

## Let's Get To Know...Clift Mitchell



Clift is currently a professor of counseling at East Tennessee State University where he received the Teacher of the Year award in 2002. He lives in Johnson City with his wife Linda. He was voted the 2007 IBM Ring 355 Magician of the Year.

**You have been a racecar driver, musician, go cart racer, psychologist, etc.**

**How many races did you win?**

I only won one feature race in my short track racing adventures. Although I won quite a few heat races (short races before the feature race). I was deemed "rookie of the year" in my first season. To be able to win at the race track takes a lot of time and money. Stock car racing was the most fun thing I have ever done, nothing compares to the excitement of racing. I would do it now if I had the time and the money and if I did not care about staying alive.

**What is your favorite type of music?**

I am basically stuck in the 70's. Jimi Hendrix is my favorite musician along with Stevie Ray and Robin Trower. I still consider the Beatles to be the greatest rock band of all time and I love Bob Dylan. In the last 10 years, very little has turned my crank. For me, rap is to music as trick photography is to magic. It's like fake music for those without talent.

**What CD is in your CD player?**

Currently, the Jimi Hendrix experience 4-CD collection that came out about a year ago.

**What is your favorite area of magic?**

Anything that has a high impact on the audience. I am into magic that really looks impossible and blows people away. This means that it can not look like it is using a device or manipulation that looks "tricky." It also means that you end clean. I am trying to get myself to not think like a magician and view it from the public's point of view. If a trick looks like the magician is "doing something," then I tend not to like it.

**First magician you saw?**

The first magic I saw was at birthday parties when I was young. I was completely fascinated by it. Loved it and wanted to learn more about it.

**Did this spark your interest or was it something else?**

The early birthday parties are what sparked my interest. Then I ordered a catalogue or two from the back of a boys scout magazine from which I ordered some tricks.

**Favorite magician?**

I do not have a favorite magician. There are many I admire. It's just too hard to decide a favorite. It's like music, there are many good bands, and they are all different.

**If a complete stranger came up to you and asked to see some magic, what would you perform?**

Probably Four Card Prediction taught to me by Bob Knigge. Also, I recently did a pick a card with a common force. In the end I told her that her card was a red ace, but never revealed it was a diamond. Leaving out the suite indirectly reinforced the mental aspect of the magic. A simple force plus a large dose of the right language turned a common, rather boring card trick into a real mystery.

**Favorite thing about being in the ring?**

I always learn something. We have developed a very comfortable level of mutual respect. There is a clear understanding that we come together to enjoy magic. This has led to a great enjoyment of each other. When we meet, we generally put the rest of our lives aside and examine and explore the puzzles and performance of magic. It's fun.

**If you could sit down to dinner with three magicians, who?**

Perhaps Eugene Burger to continue our discussion regarding language and magic. Darryl, because he is a great teacher and you could learn from him forever. Perhaps a mentalist such as Bob Cassidy or Larry Becker. And I would love to talk with Derek Lever about all the wonderful mechanical devices.

**What three magic books would you recommend to us?**

The Barrie Richardson books, Theatre of the Mind and Act Two, offer a lot of detail regarding mentalism. Jack Hugh's World of Magic had a wonderful selection of mechanical devices. Every time I look through Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic I relearn something I thought I knew.

Many of you may not realize that several of our club members are graduates of the prestigious Chavez School of Magic. See if you can spot them.

1975  
Chavez School  
of Magic and  
Prestidigitation



David Larkins



Clift Mitchell



Ashleigh Price



Matt Watts



Andrew Hyder



Jessica Brooks



Scot Price



Paul Lewis



Dan Wolfe



Mike Lewis