



Upcoming Events

Monthly Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at the Webster Groves Recreational Complex, located at 33 Glendale, at 7:30pm. Directions: Take the Elm Street exit off of I-44 and go south to Glendale.

Monthly Ring 1 Board Meetings are open to all members and are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 825 Norwich Dr, St. Charles, MO 63301. Meetings begin at 7pm!

Dec. 7 – Magic Auction at the Viking Hotel with the S.A.M. Assy 8. Contact Steve Bender to reserve your space to sell!

Jan. 4 – Gambling Magic hosted by S. Finkelstein, J. Davit & H. Monti

Jan. 9 – Eric Evans Lecture, 7pm, Best Western Hotel at the Corner of Dorsett and I-270.

Feb.1 – Ropes & Strings, Comedy Magic Night. (Continued on page 2)

Remember

Dues are due by Jan 1!

It is that time of year again when you need to pay your local Ring 1 dues. Due will remain at \$15 for the year. The money brought in through your dues goes to bring you such great lecturers last year as John Born, Jason Dean, Aldo Columbini and Mike Close as well as pay for our meeting rooms. There are 2 ways to pay your dues. At the meetings or by filling out the form that is attached at the back of this news letter and sending it to Larry Skorepa our treasurer. It is important to check all of your information for completeness and accuracy!

Going - Once - Twice - SOLD

December 7th

Wednesday, December 7 will be the night of the **Annual Auction**. This year's event will be an IBM/SAM event. The event is open to EVERYONE so bring some friends. There is no fee to buy. Only PAID MEMBERS will be allowed to sell. Membership cards will be checked at the door. If you foresee a problem, I would suggest you contact the appropriate club secretary and get the problem squared away now, as there will be NO exceptions. (Continued on page 2)

(Upcoming Events Con't.)

Feb 18 – Spring Parade of Magic - Kirkwood Community Theatre

Mar. 1 – Bruce Kalver Lecture

April 5 – Lecture (TBD)

April 7 – Stage Contest –Kirkwood Community Theatre

May 3 – Close up Contest – Nipher Middle School – Kirkwood

June 7 – Mentalism Night

Magic on the Road

By Steve Zuehlke

In early September, President Terry Richison and I had the pleasure of traveling to Rhode Island where we presented a series of school shows for the Rhode Island Public School System. During our hectic schedule we put a few hours aside and had the pleasure of having dinner with Bruce Kalver. Bruce will be the National President Elect for the S.A.M. next year. Since that visit, Bruce has scheduled St. Louis for a stop on his upcoming lecture tour. More info will follow in the *Spirit* as details become available, but this is one lecture that should not be missed. Bruce is an interesting gentleman. Besides hosting his own radio talk show, Bruce is a full-time magician, actor, balloon twister, author, consultant, moderator of SAMtalk, which is a magic bulletin board on Yahoo, and creator of several effects, which he and wife market through their company, Top Hat Productions. This lecture will definitely have something for everyone.



(Auction Continued)

Schedule:

Preview of all items starts at 6pm. The silent auction starts at 6:30 and closes at 7:10. Live auction starts at 7:30PM.

Silent Auction

As a seller, you will be allowed to sell up to 10 LOTS. A LOT may consist of several items. You may demonstrate items in your lots if you would like. Buyers will be able to sign and bid on a bid form in front of the lot. Highest bidders will win.



Live Auction

As for the live auction.....a seller will be allowed to sell up to three LOTS. Once again, a LOT could consist of several items. All LOTS must be accompanied by an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper (preferably typed) with name of effect, whether directions are included or not, and the minimum bid (the lowest price you are willing to accept for the item). All bidding will be in increments of a dollar.

We are going to try something new this year as part of the LIVE portion of the auction. Two out of the three items you are selling will be conducted in the traditional auction fashion (high bid wins). For the seller's third item, we are going to have a "DUTCH" auction. The seller will have to specify on his/her paper which of the items he/she wants to be "DUTCH" auctioned. The auction works like this ...You have a minimum bid of \$40.00 on your item...the auctioneer may start the bidding at \$60.00. If no one raises his/her bid card, the auctioneer may lower the price to \$58.00.....if someone raises his/her bid card, the item is sold for \$58.00. If no one should bid at \$58.00, he may drop the price to \$55.00 and so on. If a tie should arise, we will stop and then resume in the regular auction fashion with ONLY the people who tied. So basically, the first person to bid is the winner. This should be interesting, let alone some great fun. The clubs are taking NO auction fees, as this will be free event to all sponsored by both clubs.

Remember, ONLY paid up members are allowed to sell. Anyone can attend, even if they are not a member of either club. If planning to sell, you MUST notify Steve Zuehlke or Larry Skorepa ONE week prior to the auction (no later than Nov. 30). NO WALK-IN auction items will be accepted! All buyers will be must pay by cash or check. An agreement must be signed by anyone writing a check, accepting all responsibilities for returned checks, bank fees, collection fees etc. All sellers will be paid via check for their items. Sorry **NO CREDIT CARDS** will be accepted. Seller's listing sheet can be found on the last page of the *Spirit*.





By Steve Zuehlke

Our November meeting was the annual Poker Run/Teach-IN under the direction of "The Doctor" Steve Buesking. After some brief remarks from our President Terry Richison, Terry showed us all an advance copy of the latest *Linking Ring* with our own Harold D. Russell on the cover! Congrats to Harold who seems to be gaining in popularity over the past several months. After a few photos with the Divine Mind, Harold D., the meeting was turned over to Steve Buesking.



Steve assembled four of Ring One's best who showed us and TAUGHT us some great magic. On the bill for the evening was Ray Belz. Ray showed us a real fooler with a silk and rope. This was an easy-to-do penetration effect with lots of possibilities.



Ray Belz



Bud Dietrich

Up next as our resident trade show magician Bud Dietrich. Bud showed us a non-gimmicked version of a "brainwave" effect. Bud also shared some valuable insight on how make your own gaffed cards using your personal computer.

Steve Finkelstein was next on the bill presented a very unique number force that was used in conjunction with a book test. The test



Steve Finklestein

involved an unprepared book and Steve shared MANY ideas that could be used with this interesting concept.



Jimmy "Cards" Molinari

Rounding out the evening was resident card sharp, Jimmy Cards. Always a pleasure to watch, Jimmy showed a nice card effect using a minimum of sleights (one). This was a real fooler and I am sure I will be adding

it to my repertoire in the very near future.

After the meeting, all the poker hands were called for. There were 3 winners.

For the worst hand, the winner was Ed Stephens. With the second best hand was one of our newest members, John Carr. Taking top honors was gambling expert and bingo aficionado Sister Therese Bauer!



Sister Therese

The evening closed with some good food and drink and a lot of camaraderie!

Eric Evans - Lecture The Secret Art of Magic

January 9th, 7pm

Eric Evans is an award-winning magician who was twice nominated for Parlor Magician of the Year at the Magic Castle. He has toured the world performing street magic, while also performing in a wide variety of venues from restaurants to theaters, including Universal Studios in Los Angeles, California. But most notably, Eric is co-author of the highly acclaimed book *The Secret Art of Magic*. (<http://www.secretartofmagic.com>)

The Secret Art of Magic is the ground-breaking book that uses war strategy as a paradigm for teaching street magic, audience management, and dispersion, a new and expanded approach to misdirection. While *The Secret Art of Magic* was a book of pure theory with no effects, Eric's new lecture illustrates these strategies using stand-up routines that have been refined in the fires of the street. (Continued on page 4)

(Eric Evans continued)

However, just as the street magic section of *The Secret Art of Magic* has been praised by Michael Close, Jamy Ian Swiss, Roger Klause and many others for its applicability to "indoor" venues, so too is the material in Eric's new lecture perfect for anyone desiring solid, bullet-proof effects. Eric himself has used them in parlor and stage shows. Predominately stand-up, the tricks cover a wide range of skill level, from easy to challenging.

Some of the highlights include:

Eric's work on the Miser's Dream sequence, including several soon-to-be-classic bits with a young volunteer that always bring huge laughs.

His single-coin routine that is a mainstay of his award-winning stage act; including an original addition that is sure to fool, and more certainly to please, even the most reserved spectator. You'll be considering where you can add it to your existing coin work immediately.

Coins, Coins, Coins and more coins: A virtually unending number of jumbo coins from the hand that Eric calls *Mephisto's Mits*. Plus the production of a countless stream of dollar sized coins. You'll have to see it to believe it.

Eric's version of the Kangaroo Card (a chosen card "hops" from out of a hat) that has fooled even the most knowledgeable card men. "Let me see that again." (Earl Nelson)

His version of Johnny Brown's "Balls from Mouth" that creates the illusion of far more balls than are used; includes Eric's surprising climax.

The closer to his street show, the trick he uses to get the money! It uses a borrowed bill in a combination of classic effects that makes them both seem new, including a hilarious destruction of the bill that is completely safe and legal. The simplified handling and the psychology that makes it work is easily worth the price of the lecture itself.



David Stone Lecture

The I.B.M. was represented well at the David Stone Lecture at Hampel's Magic Activity Center in Lebanon, IL. In attendance were Jeff Aldrich,



David Stone

Steve Buesking, Shane Delon, Tom Westerheide and myself. With over 30 people there, David Stone put on a great lecture that ranged from coins, cards to surprise productions that can be used on stage or close-up. The 2-hour lecture was filled with humor and theory that works well in restaurants, which is his main performance venue.

His theory on how to approach a table was very ingenious. He drops a wallet as he walks by a table and then picks it up to ask the patrons if it is one of their wallets. It is a fire wallet and he lights it as everyone is checking their wallets. It draws attention to him and basically announces that he is an entertainer without have to impose on the table and ask if they want to watch some magic. Great idea! He had a great routine for showing both hands empty while palming a coin as well as several card-moves that even a beginner can accomplish with a little practice and look very impressive. His bottle production, non-lit cigarette routine which he developed for a "stop smoking" campaign in France, and a couple of self working impressive card routines made driving to Lebanon and the Hampel Magic Activity Center very worth while. You can check out David Stone's DVDs at <http://stone.magiczoom.com/>.

Project Magic

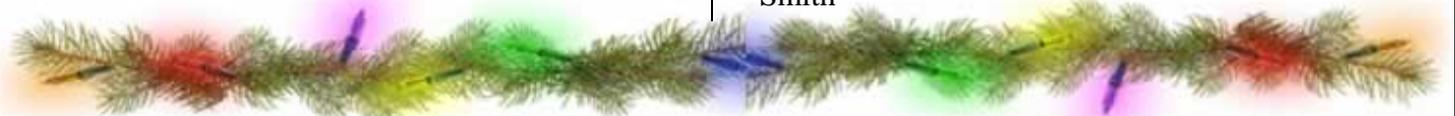
Shriner's Hospital

Show starts at 6:45 PM

Thanks to last month's performers: **Ted Schnarre**

Dec. 21 – Mike Sirota, Larry Skorepa, Keith Smith & Dave Snetsinger

Jan 18 – William McConnell, Jerry Novak & Keith Smith



A Public Service Announcement From Steve Zuehkle

At the recent meeting someone mentioned that they would hold off with the club auction and list their items on an auction website (i.e., Ebay, Magic Auction). Take it from this longtime ebayer..... why spend the time to photograph your prop, spend the time to list the prop, pay the listing fees (even if the prop does not sell), then pay Ebay the commission fee, and wait for the money (and hope the buyer completes the transaction). Or have to pay Paypal or Bidpay another commission on top of all this? Get those old props out and bring them to the auction. A little bit of information to share with everybody: Has anyone seen the "Let Us Sell It On Ebay" stores that are popping up in retail outlets? Well, I stopped by one the other day and got the scoop.....they take 30% !!!!! commission! And you have to wait up to TWO months to get paid!! Doesn't sound like a deal to me. Bring your props to the auction in December and get paid on the spot!
See ya there!

Superstitions!

By Ted Schnarre

The Superstition:

If an emptied theater is ever left completely dark; a ghost will take up residence. In other versions of the same superstition the ghosts of past performances return to the stage to live out their glory moments. To prevent this, a single light is left burning at center stage after the audience and all of the actors and musicians have gone.

The Origin:

This origin of this superstition is rooted in both practicality and further superstition. The practicality, of course, is that people coming into a darkened theatre cannot see what delicate costumes, sharp and pointy props and dangerous set pieces have been left lying about, and a light is important to prevent injury, property damage or lawsuits. The other reason lends itself to further superstition. A "dark" theatre is a theatre without a play. There is nothing sadder to a drama artist than an empty house and a payless stage. Therefore, a light is left burning center stage so that the theatre is never "dark". It is simply awaiting the next production.



Baltimore Maryland

November 9 2005

President Terry Richison and Vice President Ted Schnarre were in Baltimore, Maryland doing school presentations for the Baltimore school district. In between shows we had enough time to stop by Denny & Lee's Magic Studio. Boy, did that bring back memories of



Left to right-Ted Schnarre, Denny and Terry Richison

going to John Snider's place in Florissant, MO and Gene DeVoe's shop in downtown St. Louis.



Denny greeted us and like Gene and John would do. "Oh, you have to see this! It came in the other day! And boy did they have us going." Denny allowed us to

walk feely around the store and browse. The old large magic shops of long ago are slowly vanishing off the face of the earth. It is a shame the newer members didn't have the chance to hang around the magic shops as we did when we were starting in magic. Also along with Terry and I were Eldon Roark of Springfield, IL and David Shareef of Chicago, IL, who were working with us on the school shows. It was a great visit to the past going to Denny & Lee's Magic Studio in Baltimore. One of the better places to buy your magic. You can catch Denny on the web at www.dennymagic.com.

The Midwest Magic Jubilee Organizational Meeting

Open to All I.B.M./SAM Members!!!

If you would like to be a part of one of the Nations Finest Magic Conventions, now is your chance! Get involved!



The next meeting will be
November 29th at 7:00PM

At Steve Zuehlke's home

Call 314-514-0215 for directions.

www.mmjubilee.com

Spring Paraded of Magic Show 2006

We have already had several people inquire about performing. If you would be interested in performing in the **2006 Spring Show**, it's not that far away. We are building a great tradition of putting on great shows. We want to continue that tradition and you can be a part of it. We will be looking for acts to perform in the show. So start putting your act together or brush off one that is tried and true. Show dates are Feb. 18th. If you would like to have your act considered for the show, please contact **Ted Schnarre** 636-947-1517 or **Terry Richison** 314-232-4187 for more information.



Holiday Note from the President

The Holiday Season is upon us. Please take some time to look around and be thankful for all that we have. Sometimes it may seem like the tide of life is working against you. But in this season of joy, rest assured that you are never alone. With all the stress and turmoil in our lives and in the world around us, we as magicians help bring a little joy into the life of everyone who sees us perform. There is nothing more rewarding than to see the smile, hear the laughter of those that we entertain. During this season of giving, we must not forget those who give every day to support us in our endeavors. We need to be sure to give a little joy and gratitude to those people. They might be your spouse, your children or even just a friend. They give up much more than we know. Make sure you let them know how much you appreciate them and all they do. Thanks to them, we can spread our magical joy to millions throughout the world. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Terry Richison

Ring 1
President



2005 RING 1 OFFICERS AND BOARD

President: Terry Richison

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Historian: Roger Linden & Steve Zuehlke

(636) 947-0045 (314) 514-0215

Scribe: Harry Machin Jr.

HMachin@IBMRing1.com (314) 849 8624

2005 Committee Leaders

Linking the Rings – Steve Zuehlke, Terry Richison

Mentoring – Ram Suntha, Steve Finkelstein

Lectures – Terry Richison, Keith Smith, Harry Monti

Spring Show – Terry Richison, Ted Schnarre

Closeup Contest – Tim Shegitz, Ray Belz

Presidents Banquet – Dave Snetsinger, Larry Skorepa, Keith Smith, Steve Zuehlke,

Theper & Youthsayers

Award Review Committee – Dave Snetsinger, Steve Zuehlke, Ted Schnarre

Sick and Cheer - Harry Monti, Dave Snetsinger, Terry Richison and Ted Schnarre

Project Magic – Steve Buesking, Jerry Novak

Auction – Steve Bender, Steve Zuehlke, Larry Skorepa, Don Rataj

Midwest Jubilee Positions To Be Filled

The Midwest Magic Jubilee has several positions that need to be filled for the upcoming 2006 convention. Below is a listing of opportunities. Please contact [Terry Richison](#) if you would be interested in a position.

- 1) **Performer/Lecture contact/personal assistant.** Several people will be needed. This will consist of greeting performers at the airport and assisting them with registration and explaining hotel layout as to where lectures and performances will take place and be their liaison for the convention. Steve Buesking will be the overall coordinator.
- 2) **Backstage help:** during the evening shows and stage contest.
- 3) **Stage Set-up Crew:** to aid in stage section set up & tear-down.
- 4) **Curtain Set-up Crew:** to aid in pipe and drape and front curtain set up & tear-down.
- 5) **Lights & Sound Set-up Crew:** to aid in set up and take-down of lights and sound equipment.
- 6) **Program Ad Sales Coordinator:** Coordinate and facilitate ad sales for the program including local businesses and magic dealers coming to the Jubilee as well as those that advertise nationally.
- 7) **Program Layout Coordinator:** Coordinate the layout of ads for the program.
- 8) **Evening Ticket Sales:** help with evening ticket sales during the convention.
- 9) **Publicity:** assist in promoting the Jubilee to media including radio and TV appearances, press release development.
- 10) **Evening show Magic Booth Sales Coordinator/ Helpers:** if needed, coordinate with Steve Bender for the sale of Magic Items to the public for the evening shows only. Supervise and organize a crew to work behind the booth each night.

The Midwest Magic Jubilee is our convention and we need everyone to help in many different capacities. Without your help, it becomes very difficult to make the Jubilee a success. If everyone does a little, then a few don't have to do a lot. Next meeting is Nov 29th at Steve Zuehlke's home. Call 314-514-0215 for directions.



The Midwest Magic Jubilee has announced a date change. The date of the 2006 Midwest Magic Jubilee will be Aug 17-19. It will be at the Airport Hilton Hotel and the rooms will remain at \$79 + tax again. Please mark this on your calendar. Since this is the 50th Anniversary we are hoping for another great successful convention. Keep your eyes open for Jay Sanky, Oscar Munoz to be gracing the Jubilee. Again we will be offering a free registration for the spouse of the first 100 registrants. So get your registration in early!

Linking of the Rings

Ring 239 - Springfield, IL

The Linking of the Rings continue as Ring 1 takes some of their talent on the road. Ring 239 invited Harold D. Russell, Terry Richison and Steve Zuehlke to perform at their annual banquet on Oct 24th in Springfield IL. Playing to a packed house, Eldon Roark introduced the one and only "Divine Mind." Harold D. Russell still astounds the audience. Many of the Ring 129 members remember many of the lectures that Harold gave at several Central Illinois Get-Togethers throughout the years.

Taking over the show was our own Steve Zuehlke who used his comedic wit and charm to keep the audience, about half magicians, in stitches with the surprise endings to his tricks and uncanny Mentalism.



Terry Richison, Harold D. Russell & Steve Zuehlke

Terry Richison came out to close the show. Terry credits Ring 239 member, Eldon Roark with the creation of his version of "Bill in Lemon". By request, Terry closed the show with his touching levitation using a young girl from the audience.

The club's reaction was outstanding. Ron McDonald, Club President, said "this is the best banquet we have had in a long time, thanks to Ring 1." We will be looking forward to having some Ring 239 performers attending our Spring Parade of Magic!

THE DEMISE OF THE MAGIC "BOOK"

Well, it is finally starting to happen. About ten years ago, I was speaking with one of my customers who is quite well read on "modern technology" and he predicted that one day there will be no more books. Everything will be some sort of digital download, disc, or some other form of media. I was not convinced at the time. Now this prediction is beginning to come true.

It all began when I tried to reorder some of the Rice's Encyclopedia of Silk Magic books. I was told that they are now available as an Ebook and that the hardbound editions will NOT be reprinted. I was shocked. How can such classic works as the Rice's Encyclopedias become a "scroll down computer screen" project?? I was told that I am just showing my age and that I must go with the times. I told the publisher that I will try to buy up as many of the hardbound copies as possible and that I would "pass" on the new version as an Ebook. He asked me why and I told him that I strongly feel that selling such a product as an Ebook is NOT a service to my clients.

Just this past week I was hit with another one. I called to order more hardbound copies of Annemann's Jinx.....Out of Print!!! How about Bruce Elliott's hardbound copies of the Phoenix.....Out of Print. I asked when they were going to be reprinted....the answer.....they're NOT. "They're all on CD-ROM and no one seems to want to buy the books anymore" was the answer. This same publisher prints Corinda's Thirteen Steps to Mentalism, Annemann's Practical Mental Effects, the Tarbell Course in Magic, Card Magic of LePaul and many more classic books on magic. When those books are sold, will they be reprinted?? I doubt it. It looks like the beginning of the end.

So what is wrong with Ebooks or books on CD-ROM???? The only advantage I can see is that it is cheap and takes up less space. Can you really learn magic from this new technology?? I seriously doubt it. About all you can say is "Yeah, I have that book" on CD-ROM. I have yet to meet anyone who can sit in front of a computer screen and scroll down through an Ebook to learn magic. The eye fatigue sets in very quickly. You find yourself scanning so quickly that you are passing over some of the best writings on the subject in these books. By the time it takes to get the CD-ROM, go to your computer room, turn on your computer, load in the disc, download your reader or enter your password, and then begin scanning I could have gone to my library shelf, looked up the book by author, turned to a page, and learned a new effect. While you're still scrolling down, I am sitting in an easy chair or going from room to room with printed book in hand enabling me to open the book to any page and begin learning about the magic between the covers. I can look at any page as long as I like, study the diagrams, read the descriptions over and over, and actually learn while you are locked into your seat squinting at a computer screen.

How about the cost??? Should you decide to print out the entire book from a CD-ROM you should take a look at the high cost of that ink that goes into your printer. Add the cost of the paper. How about some sort of a binder to keep those papers from scattering around?? You might want to

reconsider how much money you really saved, if you saved any at all.

I can't even begin to count the number of customers who tell me they can't learn from a book, they don't have time to read, or they have a reading disability. They make that statement and then go home and read on the internet. What is this fear of words written on pages between the covers of a book?? If you can read words on the internet or on an Ebook then you can read a regular book. Makes sense to me. As for the reading disability, I think that the same year the videotape was invented, a virus was released to the world that caused all newborns to have reading disabilities. That must be the reason because before the videotape was invented, we all seemed to read fine. Sure, some of us had to struggle a bit more than others but we learned to read at our own pace and in our own way.

Today it's as if the majority of magicians are doomed to wait for someone else to discover a trick from a book and then put it on a DVD or perform it in some TV special. If we like it, we get the DVD and copy the performance of that trick. Of course that trick is most likely only ONE of many great tricks in a \$15.00 classic book on magic. We gladly spend our \$35.00 for a DVD showing that one trick that we liked. I really don't get it. We let the others pick out the tricks they like and put them on a DVD and then we pick out what we like from the five or six tricks on the DVD. If you would have read the same books that the DVD performer had read then you might have found many other tricks that you liked and that he didn't particularly care for. We all have different tastes in magic. If we must depend on someone else's taste, we are missing some great "other" magic that is printed in the books.

I could go on for many pages on this subject. This has been a controversial subject ever since personal computers became all the rage. Some of you will believe me and trust me while others will just say I'm old fashioned and must move with the times. Remember, progress doesn't ALWAYS mean it's better. It's only the "latest." So far, I have yet to find a better learning tool for magic than a "real book." If you would just give it a try, I think you'll find that so far there is no substitute for a book.

I am going to send out an email listing of "books" in the near future. Hopefully I can send this out within the week. I've done this sort of list before. Some have paid attention while others have not. This will be a list of "highly recommended" books that I really feel every magician should have. The Tarbell Course in Magic will be one of the book sets on the list. I honestly feel that you should not even consider buying ANY new book on magic if you do not already have the "complete" Tarbell Course. That's only my opinion.

Thanks for reading. Thanks for listening to my opinions. Trust me!!!

Denny
Denny and Lee Magic Studio
www.dennymagic.com

