



March 2008

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VMC Newsletter

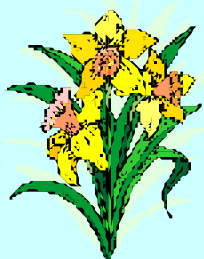
Victoria Magic Circle – Ernie Crockford Ring #183

UPCOMING DATES:

- Next VMC Monthly Meeting, Tuesday March 4th, 2008, 7:30 p.m. at the Langford Fire Hall
- Round Table, Monday, March 17th, 2008 ~ 7:00 at The Malahat Lounge
- Magic Youth Meeting Friday, March 21st, 2008 7:00, at Murray's Trick & Joke Shop
- VMC AGM Monthly Meeting, Tuesday April 1st, 2008, 7:30 p.m. at the Langford Fire Hall

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March 4th Meeting

~ FEATURING a special LECTURE by **RON BELL**.

This lecture will detail all that is covered in Ron's One Man Parade in the February 2008 Linking Ring (pages 89 through 106), so be sure to read this excellent article to fully prepare for the lecture.

~REFRESHMENTS – Steve Hignett



Mirth & Magic!!

Our family-friendly Mirth & Magic Show is just over 2 and ½ months away. This event will be held at the Isabel Reader Theatre, and this year's date is Saturday, May 24th, so mark it on your calendars!

Your volunteerism will make this event a success! We always need people to work back stage, in the house, at the sound booth & follow spot. We need people to design tickets and the show programme, to handle the ballots, and of course, we need contestants to enter the Wansborough Comedy Magic Competition! Criteria for the competition is on the Club website under 'Awards', so read up on what the contest is all about!

Whether you are an aspiring competitor or stage hand, we will have our Show Producer, **Paul Kilshaw**, ready to take your names at our upcoming March or April meeting.

Newsletter Editor Opportunity?

Hi Folks, due to returning to work part-time and other volunteer commitments, I am retiring from the Newsletter Editor position at the end of June (or sooner if you like!) ☺ ...would **you** enjoy putting together the newsletter each month? Production time is between 3 and 8 hours of time per month, depending how creative you want to get. The newsletter can be done in MS Word or in MS Publisher, and is then saved to PDF to email out to our membership. Please contact me if you have any questions, and talk to me and/or Paul Kilshaw if you would like to take the job of producing our most essential communication vehicle, the VMC Newsletter!

Sincerely, Joy Kruger



THE PREZ SEZ..

Hello Members ,

Spring has Sprung and exciting magical days are ahead. The Auction has come and gone, and was a super event with lots of great deals being made. Thanks to Mike Brough for Auctioneering, Kerry Zado for bookkeeping the event, the sellers for parting with their treasures, the buyers, and those who worked with bagging etc... it was a **huge** help and without it we cannot pull off such successful events.

Coming up in the March meeting, we have a special lecture night planned with our very own Ron Bell. Ron was featured in the One Man Parade of the February edition of the Linking Ring, and his lecture will consist of the material in that issue. PLEASE if you receive the Linking Ring, bring your copy with you.

Also it is high time to start thinking into **April** for the **AGM**. We have to select a slate of Officers for the 2008-2009 year. You will be contacted shortly for your nominations, and feel free to step into a position yourself if you would like to get involved with the executive. It is a really great experience, taking an active role in promoting fellowship and coming up with ideas on how to share even more magic and make our club a great club to be in

Then May is right around the corner ... with "The Tony Competition" at the May meeting. We also have Mirth and Magic, our yearly fundraiser show along with the "Wansborough Comedy Competition" on May 24th, and on May 28th we have lecturer and magician Bill Abbott coming to the Malahat room (more info to follow). See you all at the March Meeting,

Paul Kilshaw

TONY TROPHY COMPETITION This annual close-up magic competition will be the highlight of our May 6th Monthly Meeting, and you are invited to compete! To review contest details, see the 'Awards' page on www.victoriamagiccircle.com. Contact Tony Eng at 479-6420 to sign-up.



On February 18th, the Round Table convened and held a discussion on invisible thread led by the King of Magic, **Shayne King**.

The discussion started off with a cigarette levitation effect by **Steve Fearson**. After wow'ing the group, Shayne got right down to the nuts-n-bolts of the effect and discussed the perfect length of the thread to use, how to prepare the cigarette, the types of thread that can be used and tips on the optimal performance conditions when performing this type of magic.

Shayne then moved on to discuss the differences between the mini invisible thread reel, the Spider Pen and making your own. A brief history lesson on the origins of how invisible thread was originally made followed.

Next, Shayne showed us two versions of the Floating Dollar Bill, one with a Spider Pen and one without. He then showed us a similar effect using the techniques we just learned with a coin. He literally made the coin float through the air!

We moved on to discussing the LeClare Hookup and another type of invisible thread called Loops. Before leaving for the night, Shayne performed one final effect... the Dancing Handkerchief!

For a humorous explanation (and really, a rather good lesson on performing any type of magic) of invisible thread by **Penn & Teller**, go here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHy7PLOR1tk> (thanks for the link, Paul!)

Finally, to end the night, a few of the attendees discussed the Endless Chain routine (originally called Fast and Loose) by **Mark Desousa**.

The next Round Table session will be at 7:00pm, Monday, March 17th at the Malahat Lounge ~ Building #105 Gorge Road East. Buzz #80 to be let in to the building and head up to the Penthouse. The topic for the March Round Table will be... announced at the next Victoria Magic Circle monthly meeting. :)

submitted by *Justin Louie*

Wansborough Comedy Magic Competition



We hope many of you will consider competing for this trophy on May 24th! Please let Paul Kilshaw know if you would like to enter, as we have only 6 or 7 spaces available on the Mirth & Magic Stage.

* Read the criteria carefully and please understand staying within the eight-minute time-limit is extremely important as you will risk disqualification if you go overtime.

Wansborough Best Comedy Magic Trophy

The trophy was donated in 1985 to the VMC by Bill Wansborough for presentation annually to: "The Club magician(s) who presents the best comedy act at a function organized by the VMC".

1. Competitors will perform during the first part of the Mirth and Magic Stage Show or, if this is not held, at a Wacky Wednesday.
2. There must be a minimum of three participants for a valid competition.
3. Competitors must be members in good standing of the VMC.
4. Acts will be planned not to exceed 8 minutes.
5. The members of the audience will be the judges for the competition. They will receive a ballot form with the names of the competitors. At the finish of the competition they will be asked to tear off from the ballot form the name of their choice for the best comedy act and to drop it into a ballot box.
6. Ballots will be counted by an assigned member of the Club. The competitor with the most ballots will be announced as the winner at the end of the show.
7. While there are many forms of humor including those related to the allied arts such as ventriloquism and clowning, competitors should understand that the trophy is for COMEDY MAGIC so that magic must be given appropriate emphasis in their acts. Also, the audience will likely include young folk as well as adults so good taste must be used in the selection of material.

Lectures We had a great and well-attended night with **David Regal** on February 3rd. David taught us many cool things, his concepts and instructions are not very hard to grasp and it makes for very solid effects with huge impact to the spectator. At the March meeting we have our very own **Ron Bell** lecturing - see the Pres Sez for Details. Coming up May 28th we have lecturer **Bill Abbott** coming to the Malahat Room, for a 7:00 p.m. start. Bill comes highly recommended by Julie Eng. More details to follow. The cost for this lecture will be \$15 for members and MYI in good standing. All others pay \$30.

submitted by *Paul Kilshaw*

Magic Youth International

This month the MYI met at Murray's Trick and Joke Shop on February 15th for the annual auction. We had some great items up for bidding this year! The turnout this month was also great, and was our largest in a long time. If you're under 16, and interested in the magical arts, drop by one of our monthly meetings.



~ Cory Landels

In Memory of ..

SIMMS, Ross Irving 1916 - 2008 Ross passed away peacefully on February 13th with his wife and family by his side. Holding him lovingly in their hearts forever are his wife of 62 years, Hazel; daughter Florence Raines (Dallas); son Raymond Simms (Carla); daughter Shirley Hoyer; son Phillip Simms (Cindy); grandchildren Christopher, Jenna, Lindsay, Crystal, Miranda, Jordan, Michelle, Kyle, Scott; great grandchildren Julianne, Matthew and Bennett. Born in Montreal, Ross served in the army and was transferred to Vancouver Island in 1944 where he met the love of his life. In 1945 the newlywed couple returned to the east where Ross earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at McGill University. Back in Victoria, Ross completed teacher training at Victoria Normal School and subsequently taught at S.J. Willis Jr. High School for 26 years.



He was always avidly interested in magic and for 42 years, he was a charter member of the Victoria Magic Circle. Ross enjoyed performing comedy magic. During the earlier years, he loved to MC our magic shows. Ross and Hazel was/are GREAT supporters of our VMC. He held all the offices with our club, from Secretary, Treasurer.... right up to President, SEVERAL times. Ross was also an original Charter and Life Member of our Victoria Magic Circle.

Last year, on September 19/07, Ron Bell organized a special magic show in honour of Ross & Hazel Simms, at Lions Cove. Ross was just so delighted.

In the later years, Ross and Hazel caught the cruising bug and enjoyed many cruises together with friends. We will miss Ross dearly.

Submitted by Tony Eng



Around, About & Out-of-Town

Justin Louie was recently seen performing at 'The Range' Cabaret (see picture, left), as was photographer **Rob Brown** who entertained with mentalism. **Ron Bell's** One Man Parade was featured in the February 2008 Linking Ring and has attracted great response from as far abroad as Australia. **Lucas Kavanagh** will be competing with the Vic High Improv Team in the Canadian Improv Games on February 28 at the Metro Studio. **Joy Kruger** resurrected her old linking ring act plus sang harmonies and played dumbek with a friend at a local talent night. **Murray Hatfield & Teresa Midbo**

spent the last two weeks of February performing in several Albertan cities. **Greg Ladret** is busy coaching skating including travelling to provincial championship competition with them, though he still has time for magic including working at the February 17th Magicfest in Campbell River with **Shawn Farquhar**, **Clinton W. Gray** and **Big Steve Rossner**. **Ariel Morales** and **Rochelle Allison** are back in Los Cabos, Mexico, enjoying performing full-time at the resorts there, indefinitely. **Kirklan Lum** got a full time teaching position at Ladysmith Secondary, and his partner **Megan** is also busy with a new job at the new rec facility in Nanaimo. Mr. & Mrs. Jellyroll (aka **Jack & Vi Calve**) spent Valentine's Day entertaining with balloon creations at *The Checkered Flag* Restaurant on Millstream Avenue.

They blew their lungs out... kidding! (says Jack) and enjoyed a restful post-Valentine's weekend after the event.

PICTURES FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER



Shayne King and his appearing wand



John Kaplan beheads Steve Hignett!



Ron Bell weaves magic with grace



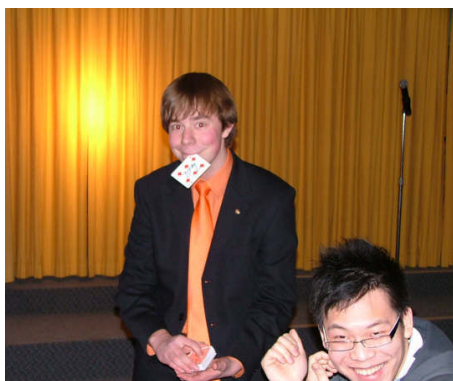
Tony Eng keeps them guessing!



John Kaplan on stage



Past President Joy Kruger receives the President's wand from President Paul Kilshaw



Lucas Kavanagh has a snack before dinner (hehe!)



Corinna & John Gilliland



Harvey Davidson & Ben L'Heureux



Teresa Midbo, Murray Hatfield & Paul Kilshaw



MYler Cory Landels dazzles with card dose-up



Paul Kilshaw, Hannah & Lori Farquhar strike the famed Farquhar pose





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Hey Magic Fans,

Can't you just feel spring around the corner? It's there, it's coming, and I for one can't wait. But if we do have to wait a little then at least it's good to have some new magic to work on in the meantime.

We've got new items coming in to the shop every week and some great new magic. Here's a sampling of some of the new effects we have in store;

STREET MAGIC (book) by *Paul Zenon* - One of England's finest magicians shares the secrets of Street Magic. Revealing the secrets employed by today's most successful magicians, Paul Zenon shares instructions for mastering impressive magic using everyday objects. Topics covered include cards, coins, mentalism and gambling routines. Nearly 100 tricks included with easy to follow diagrams and text.

ALONE by *David Regal* - Anyone who caught his lecture know the power of this effect. Close-up card magic doesn't get any more direct than this: A spectator names

a card. A deck is spread between the magicians hands, and the named selection is seen face-up among the face down cards. The spread is then raised, revealing every other card in the pack to be blank.

BARCODE REVELATION by *Steve Dela* - A card is selected and returned to the deck. The cards are shuffled and the magician, very confidently attempts to find the chosen card! After a few failed attempts, he asks the spectator the name of their card. "The Queen of Hearts," the spectator dedares. "Really," the magician responds, "that's strange because that is exactly how much I paid for this deck!" The spectator looks confused, and the performer picks up the card case and instructs them to look at the barcode. It reads, "I KNOW YOU CHOSE THE QUEEN OF HEARTS!"

GYPSEY WHISPER - A brand new effect using a clever principle in a very unusual way. The uses for this apparatus are mind-boggling. **Just one of the effects possible:** The performer

removes an old laminated photo of a mysterious Gypsy from an envelope; she is gazing into a solid black *scrying* ball. The performer states that some cultures believe that if their photo is taken the possessor of the photo also possesses their soul. Such is the case with our Gypsy fortune-teller. A playing card is selected by a spectator without the performer knowing its value. The Gypsy is asked to reveal the selected card. Slowly gazing into the black abyss of the scrying ball a faint speck appears; slowly the image becomes clearer and finally it is seen that the name of the selected card is revealed in the center of the crystal ball! Just as mysteriously, the image fades into blackness.

Anything, and I mean anything can be predicted by the Gypsy; a word, line drawing, number, playing card, serial number, you name it. The effects are only limited by your imagination.

See you at the shop.

Murray

Photos from the David Regal Lecture



Lucas Kavanagh helps above, David Regal featured right.



Ben L'Heureux and Doug Poruchny at the card table with David Regal