

Ring President Watt Hyer opened the June 2014 meeting with brief announcements and then introduced the evening's themes, "Magic with Everyday Objects" and "Impromptu Magic." The difference between the two topics being that "everyday objects" may only appear to be those encountered "everyday" while "impromptu" means that the performer brought nothing to the site and must use what's already there.

Watt started by showing a thermal plastic coffee cup, rolling a dollar bill into a ball, and performing a "Chop Cup" routine. Of course, the cup was gaffed; and the dollar had been rolled around a matching gaff. He then performed an expanded "Crazy Man's Handcuffs" routine in which two rubber bands penetrated one another, were broken and restored, and passed through a finger ring. Watt then moved onto Dan Harlan's "Starcle" in which a piece torn from a paper napkin was given to a spectator. Watt unfolded the napkin and peered through the large round hole torn from its center. When the spectator opened the piece he held, he found a star. Watt also performed a "Chink-A-Chink" routine in which four metal bottle caps placed on the table to form a square jumped from their original positions to assemble together on the table.

Zachary Gartrell's finger ring would not stay put. It jumped from finger to finger and, when pulled, penetrated the finger. A coin was added and manipulated with the ring. In the end the ring vanished from the hand holding the coin and appeared in Zack's pocket. Zack attributed Jay Sankey and De'Vo as sources for his routine. Next, Zack removed his wristwatch, had David Mahler set a time without looking at the face, and then showed significant times in a day. After this byplay, the hands vanished from the watch's face. Zack had learned Liam Montier's "Timeless" from Joshua Jay's lecture in Richmond and had been able to assemble the needed materials from Joshua's instructions.

Landon Davis called his effect "Randy's Dominoes" because Ring member Randy Earley had shown it to him. He gave Zack Gartrell a set of dominoes with instructions to choose one at random and lay out the others in whatever order he chose as long as ends of adjacent dominoes matched. David Mahler helped Zack to comply. Meanwhile Dan Dalton cut a deck of cards. Landon announced that the ends of the arrangement of dominoes would reveal the values of the cards at the cut. This statement seemed improbable when the end values became six and blank. Of course, Landon had added a blank face card to the deck. The effect used the "Break in the Chain" principle explained by Martin Gardner in *Mathematics, Magic, and Mystery* (MMM) and by Professor Hoffmann in chapter XII of *Modern Magic*.

Dan Dalton moved from participating spectator to performer by placing a paper drink cup from 7-11 on the table and having a small ball appear and disappear beneath it. At the end a tangerine replaced the ball. He latter explained how he had very nicely gaffed the cup into a "Chop Cup" so that it could be examined without discovering its secret. He then took a scarf, "bought at Wal-Mart," and explained that his wife had asked him not to perform this trick because it was goofy. From the scarf's folds he produced a small figure of the Walt Disney character, Goofy. He then showed that the effect could be even more goofy by producing a larger Goofy figure. Dan then showed how to remove a borrowed finger ring from a rope on which it had been tied by upsetting the square knot that bound it and removing the knot and ring by pulling the rope through the hand. Dan moved on with his adaptation of the Axel Hecklau "Spoonaround" gimmick. Dan, substituting a spoon for a shapely assistant and a coin envelope for a box on a stage, showed how he could pierce the envelope and spoon with a table knife. He was kind enough to reveal the secret. Tearing away the envelope revealed that the spoon had become a fork and the knife passed between its tines.

Mike Kinnaird demonstrated why magicians should not be chosen as subjects in ESP trials. In "Money Sense" from *Self-Working Mental Magic* by Karl Fulves, a spectator secretly places a coin in either hand. When arms are held raised from either side of the body, the subject unwittingly signals which hand holds the coin, giving the performer the means to pretend psychic ability. Unfortunately, neither Zack Gartrell nor Dan Dalton provided the expected signal; and Mike resolved to examine this effect for improvement.

Tom Olshefski always carries a deck of cards, so for him they are an "everyday object." He was inspired by a James Swain idea to create his effect, "Dangerous," accompanied by patter about the Academy for Apprentice Wizards and the trauma of having objects penetrate the body. A freely chosen card penetrated Mike Kinnaird's hand and the bottom of an empty card box to be found inside the previously examined box.

Bill Baber performed Al Schneider's "Sly Napkins," found in the book, *Al Schneider Magic*, and the DVD set, "The Al Schneider Technique." In this routine the halves of a cocktail napkin were rolled into balls which vanished and reappeared as Bill told his story of two boys skipping school.

Barry Mills placed a folded business card on the table and requested Randy Earley to select one of four different coins and to put it on the table. When Randy unfolded the card he found a prediction of the chosen coin and its position (heads or tails) on the table. Barry also asked Zack Gartrell, Dan Dalton, and Mike Kinnaird to call out three-digit numbers, which Barry wrote on a borrowed piece of paper. When added, their sum matched a total that Barry had predicted.

These performances led Zack Gartrell to present his "Seven Cents" trick, which he attributed to Larry Anderson's "Jaw Droppers" DVDs. Seven pennies were counted and placed one by one into a spectator's hand. The aural cue of tapping one penny against another convinced the audience that all were put in the hand, when, actually, one was held out. Showmanship then allowed Zack to pass a penny from the spectator's hand to his own hand. Zack also showed the ancient effect of announcing a spectator's computed result from an unknown number chosen by the spectator. In this routine a spectator mentally selects a secret number, doubles it, adds a given amount, halves the result, and subtracts the original number. The method appears as a number force in Annemann's *202 Methods of Forcing* (top of page 27), as the first method in "Predicting a Number" in Gardner's MMM (see above), and as the means of discerning the amount of change in a person's pocket in "Think of a Number" in *Self-Working Number Magic*, where Karl Fulves attributes the effect to the poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Zack's twist was to have one amount added to the intermediate result if it was even and another amount if it was odd. Since the intermediate result would always be even, Zack knew which number was added. Some discussion followed this effect with Bill Baber noting that a nice presentation using the method appears in Aldo Colombini's booklet, "Easy Coins: Seven Easy Coin Routines."

With all performances concluded and members wishing to pursue various topics, Watt adjourned the meeting; and a group congregated around him to learn "Crazy Man's Handcuffs."

By Wm. C. Baber

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