

NO. 180, Richmond, Virginia-Horace Bennett Ring

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7pm @ The Children's Museum, Richmond 23220

Our theme for the month of August was mentalism! Watt Hyer, our President started out the night with an effect called "Mental Logs" in which four metal bars are shown to be imprinted with a random set of numbers. The logs are rolled and Watt can announce the total of all the numbers. And they are correct in all directions! In another effect, Watt used the "Phoenix Sam Sum Deck", with Tom Olshefski as his assistant. He had Tom pick a card and look at it and as he walked away, he had Tom put the chosen card on the bottom of the deck. With his back turned Watt first guesses the color of the card, then the suit and finally the face value of his chosen card. Next Watt performed Steve Dushecks "Pad-I-Add with Harry Gallant, Steve Moore, Elmer Deffenbaugh and Andrew Clarke as his assistants. Harry, Steve, and Elmer think of a four digit number, write it down and give it to Andrew to add up. Watt then tells Andrew to think about the number he wrote down as he guesses it!

Steve Fuller was next with his version of "Telepathy" with a Si Stebbins stack. Harry Gallant was selected to pick a card and then put it back in the deck. Steve then guessed the color, the suit, high/low card and finally the chosen card.

Zachary Gartrell has Andrew Clarke pick a card then has Steve Moore write on a business card what he thinks was selected and then initial the card. The initialed business card is removed from Zach's wallet and placed face down on the table and then Andrew is asked what card he selected but it was not the card predicted. When the initialed business card was turned back over again, it now matched the selected card.

Elmer Deffenbaugh performed an original effect that he calls "X-Predicto"; it is a double number prediction. He displays a series of numbers on a board from 1-16 below the word M I N D. He states that he is going to work on the power of the mind as he picks assistants to rearrange the letters, removing the correlating numbers as each letter is moved to a different position Joe and Amy Duck, Andrew Clarke, Barry Mills and Harry Gallant assist by telling Elmer which position to move each letter to in order to jumble the word MIND. Elmer then adds the total of the numbers that are left on the board and it matches the predicted number. For the climax, when all of the number sheets were turned over, they spelled the word M I N D.

Steve Moore did an effect by Wayne Dobson called "Personal FX". Watt is asked to assist as Steve sets 3 business cards down in front of him and asks him to place his phone on one and his keys on the other. The last card is placed in Steve's wallet. As the cards are turned over, it was revealed that Watt had placed his phone on the card that said "phone", the keys on the card that said "keys" and the card that was in Steve's wallet said "wallet".

Michael Douglas performed "Stabbed and Shot" by Bill Abbott. Tom Olshefski selected a card from the deck, signed it and placed it back in the deck. Michael then takes an empty paper bag, shows the audience and throws the deck inside the bag. Steve Moore shakes the bag to mix up the cards and Michael produces a knife at which time he states that he will find the selected card. Michael then stabs through the bag and the selected card is impaled on the knife. For the climax, he then reaches into the bag pulls out the rest of the cards and then a shot glass full of water.

Now, this is an interesting one. Mike Kinnaird could not attend tonight's meeting, so he decided to perform via cell phone with the help of Joe Duck and Randy Earley. Using the power of the collective mind, Mike has Randy deal cards face down, any number, without going past half the deck. He let Mike know when he was finished, took the top card and showed the audience and placed it back on the pile. He added a number of cards on top of the selected card and then placed the cards back together. Mike had Randy deal the cards face up one at a time while Joe called out the name of the cards. He then guessed Randy's selected card. This is an effect by David Blaine from the book Mysterious Stranger.

Harry Gallant performed one of his favorite effects that he learned some time ago from the Linking Ring Magazine. This is a telephone book prediction in which he chooses 4 people (Tom Olshefski, Amy and Joe Duck and Andrew Clarke) to give him numbers between 1 and 12. Tom adds up the numbers and finds the corresponding page in Harry's phone book as Harry guesses the word that is at the top of that page.

Tom Olshefski has Watt Hyer and Amy Duck assist as he performs an original effect inspired by Paul Curry that he calls "Feminine Intuition". Amy is chosen to use her enhanced intuition to choose where to put note cards that have a particular feeling written on them (happy, sad, angry, funny, etc.). When she is done, all 6 of her "intuition" cards match the ones face down on the table. Another wonderful original effect called "Foreseeable" that was inspired by Mike Kirby. Watt was given a deck of cards to shuffle. Tom placed an envelope on the table that contained a prediction card; he then had Watt pick a number between 1 and 52. And count down to the number he chose and reveals the card that matched the prediction. For the climax, Tom turns over the prediction card to show that it was written on the back of the card, the number of cards Watt would choose.

Barry Mills was able to take 4 sets of random numbers and instantly come up with a total with the help of Amy Duck, Steve Moore, Andrew Clarke and Elmer Deffenbaugh who chose the numbers. Barry calls this effect the "50 Year Old Layman Trick", also known as speed adding.

By Amy Kelekian-Duck
Subbing in For William C. Baber
Secretary of Ring 180