

RING 180, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – Horace Bennett Ring

Meets 2nd. Wed. each month, 7:00 pm, Children's Museum, 2626 West

Broad St., Richmond, VA 23220

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President Watt Hyer opened the September meeting with announcements of coming lectures and performance opportunities for the Ring. Watt then introduced the performance topics for the night: "Rope, Silks, and Wands."

Watt showed two eight-foot lengths of rope.

He invited Amy Duck and Mike Kinnaird to help him. He wrapped the ropes around Amy's waist; and, when Mike and he pulled on the ends, the rope penetrated Amy without harming her. Watt explained that the effect used the technique demonstrated by Daryl.

Joe Duck showed a ten-foot rope and invited a spectator to cut it in the middle. A series of gags followed as the scissors refused to open, fell apart, and opened, but with only one blade.

Finally, the rope was cut and tied. Loops were tied. Knots proceeded to disappear as the rope was restored. In the end Joe tied a Hunter bow, threaded the ends through the loops for a schoolboy knot, which disappeared into Joe's hand. Joe gave the knot to a spectator. Joe had developed his routine from Tarbell, Mark Wilson, and his own extensive experience.

Zachary Gartrell had two offerings. First, he had a card selected and returned to the pack. He wrapped the deck in a handkerchief, and the selected card penetrated the handkerchief. This effect was "Card through Handkerchief" from *Visions of Wonder* DVD #3. Next, he presented "The Two Rope Trick," an adaptation of "Tight Rope" from Aldo Colombini's *Rope Confection* DVD. Two ropes became one. Four ends appeared, and there were a long and a short rope, which became the same length, and then a single rope. An endless circle was formed, which, again, became a single long piece. Zack placed its ends in his pocket. Then the center and ends changed places. Zack ended with a "Rope through Neck" effect.

Barry Mills opened his rope routine by showing a hangman's noose and joking about his wife's opinion of his rope work. He then showed his routine composed from a combination of moves taught by Francis Tabary on DVDs. Knots appeared and disappeared. They jumped from one end to the other. A double knot became single, and, then, reverted to double. Several people complimented Barry on this routine.

Dan Dalton had a thick rope which he used in his adaptation of the Hunter bow and schoolboy knots. He had learned these knots many years ago, but had more recently encountered them in Daryl's "Acrobatic Knot." He also performed two patter pieces which he developed to accompany the "Siberian Rope Release" from Fulves's

Self-Working Rope Magic. One treated a wealthy man's daughter. The other discussed a person getting married. Last, he used another thick rope to perform a "Houdini Escapes" routine in which his legs and wrists were bound and covered with a cloth. Following comedic bits in which it was clear that the rope was not restraining him, he escaped completely.

Harry Gallant showed red, white, and blue lengths of rope, which he tied into three separate loops. He then performed a "Linking Ropes" routine. Next, he demonstrated his "Pom Pom Stick" routine in which he spoke of his "do nothing machine," which he used because he had retired.

Mike Douglas performed Joe Monti's "3 Card Joe," a stand-up "Monte" routine using three giant cards: AD, 2C, and 3C. He then showed "Coin and Bottle," Rune Klan's routine from volume 3 of Joshua Jay's *Talk about Tricks* DVDs. A coin vanished, appeared, penetrated a bottle, and transported to unexpected places. Mike spoke of wanting to join bottle cap bits and a bottle through table piece to this routine.

Zack Gartrell returned to the front to invite critique of a developing work – his adaptation of David Regal's "Clarity Box" to a box of Tic-Tacs.

Mike Kinnaird discussed his distant performance from the previous month. Larry Rohr and Bill Baber conducted a Show and Tell with their collections of wands, gaffed and ungaffed, in many sizes and shapes.

As the time approached for us to vacate the building, Watt adjourned the meeting; and members collected in the parking lot to discuss what they had seen. *Wm. C. Baber*