

**International Brotherhood of Magicians
Ring 180, The Horace Bennett Ring, Richmond Virginia**

**Report of Meeting
February 11, 2015**

"Sponge Magic" was the performance topic of the February meeting. Ring President Watt Hyer began by producing sausages. He then moved to a sponge ball routine using "Gozinta Boxes" with balls appearing and disappearing from his hands, a spectator's hands, and the "Gozinta Boxes." In the end all the balls vanished.

Larry Rohr asked spectators to tell him which hand held the bunny, he then showed eggs, and retrieved a duck from an egg. He showed a cube which became a small dinosaur. He produced a larger duck and cube, and closed by producing a bottle.

Bill Baber showed a large sponge ball and split it into two smaller balls. He continued splitting a resulting ball into smaller balls. At the end he proposed combining all the resulting balls into the original large ball, but ended with a large red heart, instead, in recognition of the approaching Valentine's Day.

Zachary Gartrell performed a sponge ball routine based on "Eye Candy" from volume 2 in the "Extension of Me" DVD set by Eric Jones. He described the balls as pieces of fuzz and watched them appear and disappear from spectators' hands.

Davis West, also had balls jump into a spectator's hand from his own hands and pockets, but the balls also changed color, and his T-shirt changed color to match the balls! This routine concluded the evening's topic and off-topic presentations began.

Zachary Gartrell invited comments on his parasol production routine.

Davis West demonstrated "Decoy," a diminishing deck routine by Eoin O'Hare, issued by Theory 11. In Davis's performance the deck vanished but left a full size royal flush behind.

Eleven year old visitor, Seth Hughes, asked Watt Hyer to cut a deck into three piles, pick a pile, and note its top card. The pile was flipped over and sandwiched between the other two. The resulting deck was shuffled, and Seth revealed the selected card. He had learned the effect, "Out of My Hands," from volume 4 of the "Jaw Droppers" DVD series.

Mike Kinnaird showed "Understanding the Bermuda Triangle" from Jim Steimeyer's *Impuzzibilities*. Mike formed a triangle with piles of counted objects. He asked spectators to add objects to a pile. As they did so, he moved objects around. He then counted the objects so all could see that the recently added objects did not change the count.

Harry Gallant performed a routine, "Jack Back," from a past issue of *The Linking Ring*. Seth Hughes chose a card and returned it to the deck. A number was named and the card was found at that position in the deck. It was also found to have a chosen name written on its back.

Larry Lessner demonstrated an effect in which a card, supposedly unknown to him, switched places with a signed joker, which became folded and stored in a small box. He then gave a mini-lecture on rapid, unobserved card folds and a variety of card switch boxes, such as the Clarity Box, Mystery Solved Box, and Kennedy Box.

Lou Dean showed his use of the "Improved Invisible Deck" by Devin Knight. Lou stated that the "Invisible Deck" is an effect using the "UltraMental Deck" invented by Joe Berg in 1936. Knight's improvements are the use of Harry Robson's "Roughing Stick," rather than roughing fluid, and roughing only portions of the cards; but Lou did not reveal Knight's method of roughing. Knight's changes make it easy to avoid displaying too many reversed cards and allow the backs to be shown.