

NEWSLETTER OF I.B.M. RING 180

October 2008

Published for members of the Horace Bennett Ring
International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 180, Richmond, Virginia

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Next meeting set for October 16th

The theme for the October meeting is “sleight-of-hand.” This is difficult to demonstrate: if you’re good at it, no one should see it! As usual, after the themed part of the meeting, the floor is open for any type of effect and demonstration. We’ve had great attendance for the past several meetings. The more who attend, the more we learn from each other. And you have to admit, it’s reassuring to be able to talk with people who understand what you do.

The fine print: The Ring usually meets in the Discovery Room of the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St. at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Other events may be happening simultaneously at the Museum. If parking is tight, try the volunteer lot or the DMV lot on the east side of the Museum.

Troy Hooser lecture November 14th

Troy Hooser’s lecture on Friday, November 14th, 2008, marks the second appearance of this skilled performer and lecturer at Ring 180. Following his last appearance he had most of the group learning his “Charming Chinese Challenge” effect in which three Chinese coins threaded on a ribbon, release from the ribbon one at a time.

Troy is an expert with a flipper coin, coin shells, cups and balls and linking rings.

In addition to his sleight-of-hand, Troy Hooser is now performing mind-



reading, predictions and other effects.

Troy Hooser’s effects are compiled in a book entitled “DesTROYers” written by Joshua Jay, who has also lectured for Ring 180.

Please mark the date and time on your calendar. The Troy Hooser lecture on Friday, November 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the Eureka Theater, 3rd floor

of the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St. If parking is tight, use the volunteer lot or the DMV lot on the east side of the Museum.

Business meetings are for all members

Business meetings of Ring 180 are meant to include you if you are a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 180. These meetings are held separately from our regular third-Thursday meetings so we can devote our regular meetings to magic rather than business. Much of the business of the Ring is conducted at these meetings. The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Famous Dave’s Restaurant at the corner of Broad and Glenside. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. The next meeting is November 5th.

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REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting was held an hour earlier than usual so the Ring could have both a regular meeting and a lecture on the same evening. The theme for the meeting was “gimmicks” and President **Watt Hyer** demonstrated a gimmick by the evening’s lecturer, Jim Pace. Watt showed the Inviso Torch, a means of causing almost any object to burst into flames and then be shown to be ungimmicked, the device leaving you clean. Pace has updated the device; the new version is called “Phoenix Fire.”

THE JIM PACE LECTURE



Jim Pace



Pace's camouflage coins



Jonathan Austin and Amy Duck are able assistants

Jim Pace’s lecture took place in the Eureka Theater of the Science Museum of Virginia. He proved to be facile with coins, demonstrating both a 3-fly routine and his version of the Miser’s Dream with coins coming from a variety of places.

Continuing with coins, Pace demonstrated his version of a coin matrix by using “camouflage coins,” coins which, on the reverse side, look like part of a card

He did a bit of mindreading by revealing the objects that two spectators chose from a list of ten items.

As promised, Pace showed how to shove an ungimmicked pen through a bill without damaging the bill. In a similar vein, he demonstrated how to shove your finger through a bill without damaging the bill (or finger) and how to apparently poke your finger through a person’s shirt or coat without damaging the garment.

Pace explained card control with an ambitious card routine. He also went into detail on how to stop the hands on a spectator’s watch.

Pace makes a good part of his living performing magic in restaurants. At his lecture, pace gave several methods and hints about the proper way to approach a table of diners.

Several years ago, before the DVD era, Pace had a video cassette on using Rocky Raccoon, the spring animal made popular by Magic Masters.

Following his formal lecture, Jim Pace demonstrated a variety of his fire gimmicks including the latest Inviso Torch, the Phoenix Fire; Hot Leads, which allows you to hand a person your flaming calling card; his Lucifer wallet; Inviso Sparkle and several others.

While this is not a review, the only regrettable down side for both Pace and his audience was that he came to Richmond at the end of his lecture tour. Thus he was out of product to sell. A shame, since those in attendance were willing to buy much more. There was no way for Pace to know in advance that the Richmond I.B.M. Ring has a reputation for buying the products of its lecturers. Future lecturers, take note!



Watt Hyer with Inviso Torch



Pace's Coins Across



Zack Owen and Kris Ratcliffe help Pace demonstrate an effect



Pace with Rocky Raccoon

THE FRUSTRATION INCORPORATION SITUATION

It was decided several months ago that it would be desirable to incorporate Ring 180. Incorporation protects individual members of the group from anyone who might bring an action against the Ring as an entity. While it is sad that we are in a litigious society, prudence demands we protect our members. This is especially so as Ring 180 launches its Youth Program for teens.

Here's the situation: Under Virginia law, the group may incorporate as a non-stock corporation. The initial fee to the State Corporation Commission (SCC) is \$75. There is an annual fee of \$25 for all future years. Virginia law requires that the group have a "registered agent" who is available to represent the group and receive notices from the Commonwealth. The registered agent is also in charge of renewing the application year after year. State law requires that the registered agent be either (A) a member of the club who does not need to be a lawyer, or (B) a lawyer.

As members of the Ring know, members of the Ring come and go. Officers, almost by definition, also come and go. The group may appoint different registered agents from time to time, but there is no one within the Ring who can reasonably be expected to serve for several years.

As of this moment, President **Watt Hyer** is looking for a lawyer or a law firm that is willing to serve as the Ring's registered agent for only a small fee each year.

Another item in passing: The terms "non profit" or "not-for-profit" referring to corporations do not apply in the case of Ring 180. These terms have meaning for the federal Internal Revenue Service if the Ring wants to be recognized by the IRS as a non-profit organization. Ring 180 does not solicit charitable funds so there is no need to seek this IRS status at this time.

ADMISSION FEES FOR LECTURES

At the October business meeting it was decided to continue the admission fee schedule adopted for the Jim Pace lecture.

The current admission prices as of October, 2008 are:

- General Admission: \$20
- I.B.M. or S.A.M. member: \$15
- Family members accompanying I.B.M. or S.A.M. member, half the general admission: \$10
- An added bonus "Couples Price," a couple may attend for a total of:..... \$30

These admission prices will continue until further notice. The admission price of \$20 for the public and \$15 for I.B.M. and S.A.M. members has been in effect for many years. With gasoline prices fluctuating travel may become more expensive for lecturers who, in turn, may increase their fees. That hasn't happened yet; as a matter of fact, several lecturers have had lower than usual fees recently. The Ring will keep admission prices as low as possible for as long as possible.

RING MAGIC AT THE COUNTRY CLUB *By Watt Hyer*



Watt Hyer

Three of our local magicians, **Watt Hyer**, **Ron Occhuito**, and **Donovan Phillips**, just finished the second of two recent gigs together at The Country Club of Virginia's James River course clubhouse. The first event was the annual fundraiser for the cancer support group ASK, and the second was the wedding reception for fellow magician and Ring member Landon Davis's daughter. The magicians performed walk-around for the guests, and at the fundraiser Watt performed a little silk magic with help from the kids as an "attention getter" for the audience before the live auction started. Ron performed close-up table magic in a little parlor off the main room and Donovan dazzled them with

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fire, coins and bill changes inside and out.

The fund raiser was magic-themed, with top hats, wands, and cards as place settings, and at the wedding reception, everybody knew the father of the bride was a magician. Therefore, both audiences were preconditioned to expect performers and that took a lot of the usual pressure off the approach. Since these were both high-class formal affairs, everybody was on their best behavior, and the audience, for the most part, was appreciative and respectful. This was an excellent opportunity for experience with a sophisticated audience and the fact that they were both paying gigs made them all worthwhile!

As the Ring and its individual magicians get more attention, there will be more requests for performing for groups and their events, and through the Ring's networking, active participants should be able to find ample opportunity to perform. The next such event will be the Pumpkin Palooza October 18, at the Science Museum. This will be a more raucous event, but will provide the opportunity for stage performance as well as the usual guerilla family audience walk-around.

We will report on that event as well.

—Watt Hyer

