

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 February meeting with a call for volunteers to perform with the Magic Club at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) as it conducts a charity fundraiser February 22.

Zachary Gartrell, a VCU student, reported that Eric Jones, a former Ring 180 member, would be giving a show and brief lecture at VCU on March 23. Eric's appearance will be in the afternoon, so Ring members will be able to see his appearance at VCU and attend the Ringsponsored

lecture by Ed Ellis that evening at Divine Magic and Novelties.

The February theme was "Tech Tricks," effects in which a smart phone, iPod, MP3 player, tablet, or other tech device provides the means for accomplishing an effect. An alternate theme for those technologically challenged was "Magic for Lovers" because Valentine's Day followed the meeting day.

The use of a smart phone allows many variations on "The Wizard," a classic telephone card revelation described in several places (e.g. *Magic and Showmanship* by Henning Nelms). Some of these variations appeared in the meeting. Brandon "Chip" Baggett had a card selected.

The spectator called "Christine" in distant California. Of course, Christine revealed the chosen card. Chip attributed the effect, "iPredict+," to Greg Rostami and Theory11 and said that both iPhone and Android versions existed. Zachary Gartrell's tech offering was "One-Coin Routine" performed with a Samsung Flip Phone. In it a coin appears, disappears, and changes into a cell phone. He also presented *146 www.magician.org The Linking Ring* "Galas How," a patter routine. Joe Duck performed "Card Prediction," his own iPhone-based routine, which he assembled from resources acquired through "Apps Gone Free" at the Apple (iTunes) App Store. In it an animated face revealed the selected card.

Elmer Deffenbaugh reached back into his closet to retrieve an effect from Tannen's in the 1980s, "Stull Watch Outdone" by Rich Bloch. Amy Duck set the time on a Timex electric travel alarm clock. The set time matched the prediction placed on the table at the beginning of the routine. Mike Kinnaird, a salesman who often has to pass protective secretaries, showed "Card Now" by Damien Surr and Jakob Halskov. His business card was shown on his iPhone's screen from which he extracted a hard copy. The effect with the movement of the card on screen synced with the appearance of the hard copy was stunning.

Harry Gallant's tech offering had the spectator remove a card from a deck, table it without looking at it, and dial the number of a psychic who would reveal the chosen card. We laughed when the person called said it was the wrong number and laughed again when the card was revealed to have printed on it "You have called the wrong number."

Harry's Valentine offering posed as a prediction effect in which the performer would reveal which side of a flat token, happy heart or broken heart, the spectator chose, only to discover that the spectator now had a heart shaped piece of chocolate wrapped in red foil.

Lou Dean had three effects for his Android phone, which he said were in iPhone versions, too. One was an adaptation of Devin Knight's "Four Told," in which a chosen symbol is revealed on the phone. The second, "iForce," appeared to be a "Doodle" app that the performer used to draw a hidden image on the phone's screen. A spectator named a shape and then saw that shape matched the one doodled on the phone's screen. His third effect, "Houdini," showed biographical information about Harry Houdini with family pictures. A spectator chose a card and a zoom into a family photo showed Houdini's brother holding the card.

Bill Baber performed Bruce Kalver's "Professor Marvel's Crystal Ball" in which Chip Baggett chose a miniature poster of a magician from the early 1900s. Chip then rubbed the crystal ball on Bill's iPhone and the selected poster appeared.

With the theme portion completed, Zachary Gartrell demonstrated his planned performance for the VCU Magic Club's charity fund-raiser and invited comment from the Ring members. Several members provided helpful suggestions. This activity concluded the meeting.

Wm. C. Baber