

RING 180, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – Horace Bennett Ring

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

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Ring 180 moved its December meeting from the second Wednesday to the second Sunday in order to maximize attendance at its annual winter season party at the home of President Watt Hyer. The Ring supplied entrees and drinks. Attendees brought appetizers, side dishes, and desserts. There was an abundance of food and magic as members and guests talked and performed throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

The magic was bolstered by a continuous showing of TV performances by famous magicians of the past taken from Watt's DVD collection, which included material from the Ed Sullivan Show. Attendance was somewhat curtailed by bad weather, but all who did arrive had a great time.

President Watt Hyer convened the January meeting and opened with brief business. Watt then introduced the evening's theme, "Recently Acquired," by showing the "Mirror Box" that he acquired from fellow member Freddie Kirchner. It held a large load containing a cell phone, a card deck, pieces of playing cards, a Sharpie, and lots of (sponge) hot dogs. It could have held more.

Tom Olshefski presented "Envy-Lope," developed by Brandon David and Chris Turchi. In this effect Tom put an empty pay envelope into his back pocket. Barry Miller selected a card and signed it. Tom added a twist by having Barry also write a freely-chosen three-digit number on the card. Barry returned the card to the deck which immediately transformed into the envelope now holding the card. The deck was in Tom's back pocket where the envelope had been.

Mike Kinnaird demonstrated his "psychic" ability to determine the five playing cards held by spectators. Spectators Hun Woo, Freddie Kirchner, Lou Dean, Barry Mills, and Bill Baber each selected a card by cutting the deck passed among them. Mike asked those who held black cards to sit down. He then asked irrelevant questions of those holding red cards. Purportedly based on their answers, he was able to intuit the card held by each spectator. The effect was from *Magical Mathematics* by Persi Diaconis and Ron Graham and used a De Bruijn sequence as its method.

This Christmas friends gave Bill Baber a box of "Card Tricks" containing a book by James Weir and two decks of cards. Bill combined two effects, "Surprise Aces" and "Cutting the Aces" into a two-part routine. Steve Fuller chose a card and returned it to the deck. He cut the deck several times and spread it revealing a reversed card. The reversed card indicated the location of his

chosen card. Steve then formed the deck into four piles, following Bill's instructions. Steve turned over the top card of each pile showing that he had miraculously found the four aces.

Time was given to Larry Lessner to test an act that he hoped to perform at a talent show during this year's convention of the American Statistical Association. The act featured Larry's emerging interest in mentalism and allowed him to use his *142 www.magician.org The Linking Ring* knowledge of statistics to argue the improbability of the results. Tom Olshefski offered a second recent acquisition, Joshua Jay's "Inferno." In this effect Watt Hyer, Mike Kinnaird, and Barry Mills made decisions which led to the choice of a single card. Tom then led them through a mimed process of lighting matches and burning the cards, but saving the chosen one from the fire. This invisible card, folded and secured with a paperclip, was magically passed into a pocket-sized match box that, when opened, held the actual, physical card. There was discussion of how and why Tom had modified the presentation to avoid the use of real, burning matches.

Larry Rohr showed a sponge ball routine in which a large, red sponge ball became a large, red sponge cube. He then showed small black, red, and yellow sponge balls, which he pushed into one hand and changed into a single, large, red, yellow, and black sponge ball. In case a spectator thought the small balls were actually in the other hand, he showed that it contained a small, yellow rubber duck and a piece of candy.

Watt adjourned the meeting so that members could participate in a "Magic Market Place" and buy items from one another. *William C. Baber*