



THE SPIRIT TRUMPET

IBM Ring 96' Newsletter



July 2022

June Meeting Round-up



On Saturday June 18th Ring 96 held its most recent meeting. The meeting was a huge success. Our lecture was from

Jon Armstrong who has a strong reputation as an amazing card worker. The Ring had a better than usual turnout as many magicians and guests came to see Jon's work.

Jon opened by explaining that he is transitioning away from pure card work and moving toward comedy magic. He has been working both his usual corporate jobs as well as on

cruise ships in both the parlor and big stage settings. His lecture focused on a bit of both, and everyone felt well entertained and taught.

For his first effect, Jon had a card selected. The card was lost in the deck, but soon Jon held up the wrong card. It changed in his hand to the correctly chosen.

Next came a very complex routine that included a chosen card, and later a signed card. A chosen card was found under a volunteer's wristwatch. A signed card was found by a knife stabbing through a paper bag. The empty crumpled bag was then found to contain two shots of whisky (lemonade really) in two shot glasses.

Jon shared some tips on how to improve a card trick simply being

aware and acknowledging your surroundings. He also shared how he uses body language and movements differently depending on the size of the venue.

On a cruise ship, Jon does not invite any volunteers up onto the stage for the first few minutes. Let them become comfortable with him first, this will lead to better experiences later. We were shown the proper way to invite an audience member onstage to be a volunteer. It was a way to make them comfortable, keep them comfortable, and make them feel like part of the show. This method is also strong for keeping control of the audience, which Jon correctly feels is very important to performing a smooth magic show.

Next meeting:

July 16th... 7 pm

"Lecture from Sharpo"

North Senior Center

3333 Saint Cloud Drive.

Seal Beach, CA

Coming Soon to Ring 96



July 16th



Aug 20th



Sept 17th

Jon showed us a new and unique use for "Scotch & Soda." The routine included a force and was truly brilliant. It led to a discussion on the timing of loading objects. Jon earned a lot of points after this effect by gifting the Scotch & Soda set to a young man who was there for the first time and is considering membership.

Jon brought the young man up to the stage to help with an effect that involved tearing cards in half and surprisingly finding a matched set among chosen cards.

Finally, Jon cut a deck of cards into two piles and had two volunteers each take one half. One was told to take out ten black cards, and the other take out ten red cards. Two circles were on the table, made of close-up mat material. One was black and one was red.

**Welcome new member,
Kevin Papke!**

After verifying that there were indeed ten of each color, Jon began dealing the black cards onto the black circle, and the red ones onto the red circle. He switched the decks and the circles back and forth, but the correct color still ended on the correct circle.

Another exciting night at Ring 96



Where are you?

Have you come to a Ring 96 meeting lately? If not, why not? You see we really need you. We really need you to tell us what you want. If the Ring is not giving you what you want, let us know. We can work on it. Did you want more lectures? More member performances? More competitions? Time for sessioning? The board of Ring 96 wants our people to be happy and think well of the club. That is how we grow. So let's hear it from you.



The Close-up Competition is Coming!

Are you ready to do your close-up act in this year's competition? If not, now is the time to get ready! Prepare a Ten minute close up presentation and please do not start a new effect after eight minutes. If you win, what will you get? Well, first you get a trophy. Then you get bragging rights. What more could anyone ask? Come to the Senior Center ready to do two presentations of your set. We keep the audiences small and split up to keep the idea of "close-up" as pure as can be.

What if you don't do close-up magic? No worries, the Stage magic competition will be along soon enough too! See you there. Get ready, get set, go! Contact Paul to sign up

madmonsterparty@yahoo.com



Who can come?

Who can attend a Ring 96 meeting? Performance meetings and open meetings and open meetings, anyone and everyone can come enjoy the magic.

Lectures are a different story though. Ring 96 members can of course attend.

Members of the Orange County Magic Club can attend too, as we have a reciprocity agreement.

If a spouse or partner occasionally attends that is acceptable, though if it is consistent, we may ask a member to upgrade to a "family membership."

Solo magicians, or magicians from another club may attend, but we will charge them a \$10 lecture fee. (That \$10 can be applied toward Ring membership.)

Friends and non magicians should probably stay home for lectures due to exposure of magic secrets.

While we are on the topic... Are you a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians? It is a "requirement" for Ring membership that you join. The access to the Linking Ring makes it worthwhile. See our website for details.



Raffle Winners

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Mark Wilson: Business Card Magic	Marty Gorman	George Reis
The Great Illusionists -Edwin Dawes	Suds Estate	Donna Furon
Bag 'o Tricks	Michael Van Horn	Bill Kornhauser
Allied Arts	Suds Estate	Roy Ball
Booklets	Suds Estate	John Engman
Linking Ring Magazines 1954	Suds Estate	Mark Furon
Rubik's Cube and Bliss	Jon Armstrong	Bill Pearce

Want More Magic?

Ring 313 — Hybrid meeting

July 26

Check website for details

Orange County Magic Club

July 13th 7:15 pm

Anaheim Community Center

[250 E. Center Street](#)

Joe Derry's Magic Night

1st Tuesday of each month

[Gallagher's in Long Beach](#)

The Magic Castle

Happy Birthday!



July Birthday's

Paul Case

Ram Rivas

Ring 96 Officers' Contact Info

President:	Paul Case	madmonsterparty@yahoo.com
Vice President:	John Piercy	thinkonthis@msn.com
Treasurer:	Paul LaGreek	plml2k@verizon.net
Secretary:	Cliff Gerstman	cliffg37@verizon.net
Sgt. At Arms:	Judy Case	madmonsterparty@yahoo.com
Past President:	Kim Hallenger	magicalkimba@gmail.com
Member At Large	John Engman	jeng8man@gmail.com
Member At Large	Dan Habel	magicdano@aol.com

Jon Armstrong's Lecture





**Ring 96 Presents,
A Lecture from
Sharpo!**



**Sharpo's lecture focuses on...
crafting a routine,
magic as interactive theater,
scripting,
memory work and
card sleights.**

**Saturday July 16th @ 7 pm
3333 Saint Cloud Drive
Seal Beach, California**



www.ring96.com



Close-up Competition
August 20th

Who's Your Inspiration?

Zeezo, Larry Campbell (hi Dad!) dropped out of high school at 15, later serving in the US Coast Guard for 8 years until he was involved in a devastating auto accident. Instead of saying, "look at what I've lost" he said, "what's the opportunity in this" and began a career as a professional clown and magician; later owning a successful chain of magic stores. Out of his challenges and difficulties, he also inspired and motivated others to succeed.

One of the many things I admire about my Dad (aka Zeezo the Clown) is that he has already written his eulogy and truly spends each day living up to that image of who he wants to be remembered as. Yes, he's made mistakes, been flat broke and definitely had his share of trials. But an amazing positive attitude and inner confidence brought him through each time to higher ground. His ability to give joy while selling is truly an example of how to succeed in business.

The clown suit is retired now, but not the performer. Zeezo regularly does motivational speaking - to motivate, not earn a fee. He also volunteers his talents for many non-profit organizations and performs magic shows to give back to those around him. I also know there are thousands and thousands of restaurant and other service professionals around the world that remember the engaging bald man who performed magic and brightened their day.

We have all been influenced by successful people. Take a look at who has inspired you to be the best you can be and then be your best in their honor. As I look at my work ethic, drive and passion, I realize that I have been influenced by many people; people that believed in me and encouraged my success while leading by

example. I hope I honor them as I continually striving to be better, serve more and go forward as an example to others.

Disclaimer: This blog post is not to be interpreted as kissing up. It truly came from the heart.

Thanks, Dad. My passion, love of sales and desire to give back are truly a gift from you.

3/16/09 - Over the past 2 years since I wrote this original post, I have had quite a few people contact me about the influence Zeezo had in their lives and wondering how he is doing now. Many are now entertainers themselves and all have expressed gratitude for Zeezo the Clown. If you would like to contact Zeezo (a.k.a. Larry Campbell) feel free to email him at czeezo@gmail.com. Here is an article Richard Haddod recently wrote...

Salesman or cheater, what I learned from an honest clown

By Richard Haddad

When I was a young man I worked for a chain of magic and novelty stores called Zeezo's Magic Castle. The company slogan was, "We Only Sell Fun".

It was a wonderful job for a teenage boy because I was able to learn and perform magic every day after school and earn money from commissions selling the magic tricks and novelties like disappearing ink and squirting cameras.

Zeezo the Clown was the owner of the store chain. His real name was Larry Campbell, and he was not only a successful businessman and entrepreneur, but also a master teacher, seeking to help his employees reach their highest potential.



The magic store and Zeezo's mentoring proved to be the perfect equation for me to achieve success. One day the employees were gathered for an annual event to recognize the top salesperson of the year. It was an honor to learn that I would be named as the leader in sales. I understood there would be a generous bonus check awarded during the ceremony. At 15 years old it was an unprecedented boost to my ego to have outsold seasoned adults.

During the awards presentation Zeezo openly praised me for my ability to gather an audience at the mall storefront and achieve such high sales numbers. With his polished bald head and bright wide smile he continued to address the audience as he slowly lowered a white envelope toward my anticipating hand. But just as my fingers started to close on the envelope Zeezo quickly jerked it upward, snatching it from my grip. Then turning to me, speaking only so that I could hear, he said, You're very good as what you do, but if anyone ever walks out of one of my stores with something they didn't want, you will be out of here.



Turning again to the audience he made the envelope maneuver seem like nothing more than a playful joke, now handing me the check as the audience began to applaud.

Standing there at what should have been a moment of basking glory I felt all pride drain through my shoes and onto the floor. I didn't know it at the time, but I would later be thankful for this enigmatic moment of covert humiliation. Larry Campbell was looking beyond the moment.

He later explained he wanted me to remember that moment because it didn't matter how good a salesman I was, if I sold someone something they didn't want then I was cheating them and no cheater would work for him.

I know now that he was trying to teach me to put integrity before greed and glory. It's a principle I have never forgotten and have always tried to inculcate in my employees and my own children.

