



Shell Game

November's meeting

At November's meeting, we had a good turnout – people escaped from whatever they were doing to learn about escapes!

But first, there was an important order of business – Brad Rachuk’s presentation to join the club! Brad has been with us since the summer - and it was finally his time to shine. And that he did – showing us the “Invisible Palm”, where palmed cards seemed to magically appear on the table – and his version of “Dunbury Aces”, where a spectator’s two selected cards change into 2 Aces!

It was unanimous – Welcome to the club, Brad!

Our beloved prez Steve Seguin played Tony Clark's "Rope Escape" demonstration (a variation of the Keller rope tie), and then lead us in learning the effect. It was a laugh to see us being tied up and trying (at first unsuccessfully) to escape – but in the end, we all got the knack!

And that wasn't all the escape routines this night. Brad Rachuk was back with a handcuff escape using a safety pin! Mark Hogan showed the Gysel spirit tie (used for performing the spirit cabinet effect). And it took more than one try, but Mike Fisher was able to revive his old "Shanghai Shackles", as well as do a successful escape from a strait jacket!

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 15 7:30PM

Topic: DINNER!

Place: Peter Mennie's home!

It was great to see so many people out - thanks to all who attended. I'm sure we all learned something useful – because at some point we're all "bound" to be "tied up" with our stomach in "knots" (Sorry ... can't ... stop ... the ... puns!)

Mark Hogan

December's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, December 15

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Peter Mennie's home
(email Steve or Peter for directions – see below)

Topic: DINNER, TRICKS AND MAGIC GIFT EXCHANGE!!

'Tis the season – to be eating! And that's what's in store for December. We'll relax for a nice dinner at ... and follow it with some magic and a gift exchange!

It's easy – just bring a wrapped magic gift (under \$20) and something to perform. After dinner, each person will perform - and you'll walk away with a magic gift or your own!!

If you plan on attending, please send an email to either Steve (steve_seguin@hotmail.com) or Peter (petermennie@gmail.com) so Peter can know how many are coming.

Hope to see you in December!

News Of Interest

Kenosha magician lands Soul Train gig

(Jackie Loohuis-Bennett, The Journal Sentinel)

It's probably not the best idea, the first time you perform on national television, to make the show's host disappear.

But that's what Kenosha magician Bill Blagg will do when he takes the stage on "The 2010 Soul Train Awards," airing on BET at 8 p.m. Sunday.

Blagg puts actor Terrence Howard in a "Plexiglass Box" illusion on the awards show, which was taped before a live audience.

"Terrence gets in the box and the lid gets closed and the box gets covered, you can't see him anymore, and the box goes swinging 10 feet up in the air and then something really cool happens," said Blagg, who, of course, is loath to reveal what really happens.

The idea behind Blagg's segment came from the show's producers, Blagg said. "They said they wanted to really embrace the nature of the music this year, the magical quality soul music has to it. They wanted to incorporate magic into the segment that has banter about casting spells."

Blagg got his start in magic at age 5, when "I got a magic set from my grandparents that I never put down."

After studying such greats as David Copperfield, Blagg said he "created my own style of magic that really connects with people."

"It has a Wisconsin flavor: 'How you guys doing, we've brought you some illusions,' interactive off-the-cuff banter. Not 10 minutes of smoke with two Minutes of magic."



We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!
Please send any original reviews, magic
tricks or routines to:
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Magic Cruise 2010 ship stranded - magicians to the rescue!

(Gray Phillips, KeysNet.com)

When the Carnival Cruise ship Splendor lost power after an engine room fire on Monday, Nov. 8, it made news around the world. Nearly 4,500 passengers were stranded, adrift miles from land without electricity, hot water, air conditioning or a way to cook meals.

What most news reports missed was that 159 magicians were on the ship for a weeklong convention. Among those was Tavernier resident Michael Trixx, who appears regularly at Lor-e-lei resort and Island Grill in Islamorada and at Gilbert's in Key Largo. His schedule can be found on his website, michaeltrixx.com

Trixx, 40, is beginning his eleventh season in the Keys as a full-time magician. He said the convention was an opportunity to socialize and perform with fellow magicians, and attend lectures and seminars by more experienced and famous performers, most notably Mark Kalin and Jinger.

Trixx first knew there was a problem with the ship when he awoke to the smell of smoke.

"They never made an announcement, the shaking of the ship woke me and I smelled smoke before they said anything," Trixx told The Reporter. "I was on the eighth deck so it had to take a while for the smoke to reach that level."

All the passengers were moved to the outside decks of the vessel, and Trixx said they were told the ship was not in danger of sinking. That's when the electricity stopped.

"As we were evacuating that's when it happened. That was about a half hour after the initial incident," he said. "We all made our way to the upper decks. They told us it was just smoke and there was no need to be worried."

Trixx said it didn't take long for the passengers to get restless and bored so he and several other magicians started doing magic tricks on deck. He said he took the tools of his trade with him when he left his cabin.

"Me and a few others started doing impromptu shows for the kids and other passengers. I have a belt like Batman's utility belt that has what I need to perform," he said. "I didn't want anything to happen to that so I took it with me."

My wallet and credit cards and everything stayed in the room, but I took my magic with me."

(Click the link below to read David Sandy's interesting article on how he managed to run a magic convention and entertain the passengers on a stranded cruise ship!)

: <http://www.magician.org/node/1047>

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The Shell Game is a free newsletter sent to members of the London Magicians Guild and other people in the community interested in magic.

Opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magicians Guild.

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