



THE SPIRIT TRUMPET

IBM Ring 96' Newsletter



May 2025

April Meeting Round-up

The meeting proper started off with a broken wand ceremony for long-time ring member Paul Miles, who recently celebrated 25 years with the IBM.

Rich Cowley began his lecture... He was instructed to give a lecture on "How to win a close-up magic competition."

Rich started the lecture by giving us a fascinating history of his own magical beginnings and used that to show how he developed his personal magical philosophy. He starts from a question... "If you could really do magic, what would that look like?" It would look smooth and easy, and that is how a magician's performance should look.

Rich warned against falling into the rut of many magicians who all basically tell the same story throughout their show. Their magic may be good, but the formulaic approach can bore an audience badly. How can you make sure your story is your own and not the same as all the others? Always share what you are passionate about, your audience will sense and see your sincerity.

Rich did one effect. He produced a silver dollar. It was a real 140-year-old silver dollar. He turned that into a dollar bill and then that into a stack of dollar bills. He often gets asked to produce engagement rings at the magic castle when someone wants to propose to their fiancée.

Magic and music have a few things in common artistically. Look to bring out the art in your magic. Make it look and/or feel

Next meeting:

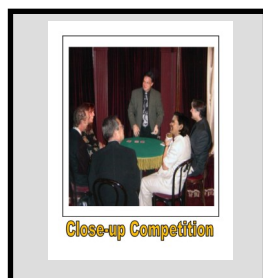
May 17th... 7 pm

"Close-up competition"

3333 Saint Cloud Drive

Seal Beach CA 90740

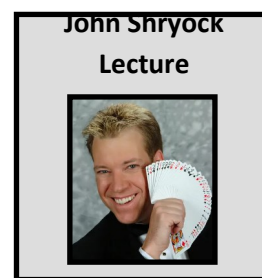
Coming Soon to Ring 96



May 17th



June 21st



July 19th

like more than it is.

Magicians can be lazy. We are one of the few arts that have “self-working” presentations available to all. Never do a trick with someone else’s patter & presentation. Make it your own. Don’t be a tribute band. If you cannot make a trick your own, why are you doing it?

Be sure you know your audience. While you are performing, get to know your audience. It will help you reach them and connect with them.

Make sure your effects flow from one to another. Too many magicians just pull-out prop after prop. Make sure your props make sense to the effect. Many don’t. Make sure your effects escalate. Be sure you have a big finish. Repeating a trick does not mean it has escalated. The ambitious card was used as an example.

Rehearsals: There is a tech rehearsal and performance rehearsal. Tech rehearsal is simple practice of the technical moves. The performance rehearsal is practicing in front of faces. (Real faces or models but placed accurately) Don’t practice in front of a mirror! It trains your eyes into bad habits. Use your cell phone on a tripod and video yourself. Be sure to aim the phone at yourself, but not so you can see the screen. This is the same issue as the mirror.

Rich ended with a quote from the

Professor, Dai Vernon... “If you don’t want to practice, get another hobby”

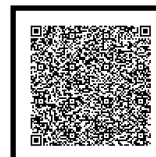
The lecture went over very well, and it was another exciting night at Ring 96.



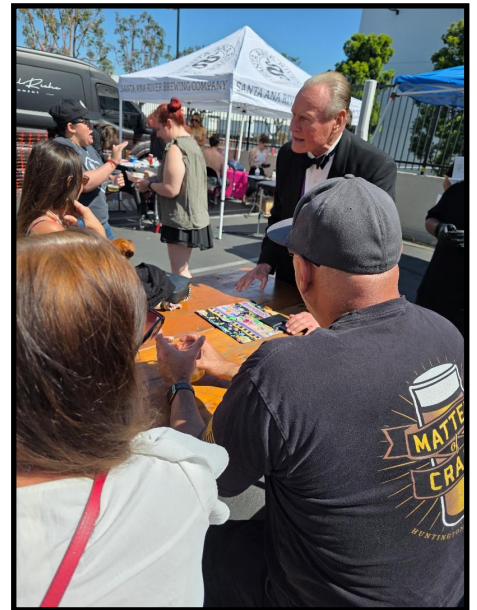
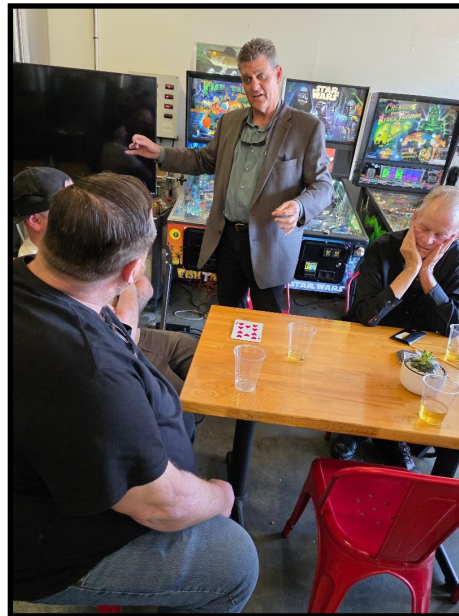
**Don't forget to
copy flyers for
the close-up
competition
and give them
out where you can.**

**Don't forget to leave
Ring 96 flyers
where ever you go!**

Sign up to attend the next Ring meeting, even if you can’t make it this month!



Ring 96 at the Santa Ana River Brewing Company Anniversary event!



Ring 96 at the Santa Ana River Brewing Company Anniversary event!

Photos by George Reis



Rich Cowley Lecture

Photo Credit: George Reis



Between the Tricks: The Magical Musings of Jon Strum



Welcome to Between the Tricks, a new column that will appear each month in our club's newsletter. My goal in this column is to focus on all the things that a magician considers -- between the tricks. Topics will include magic theory, performance theory, character development, practice, rehearsal, trick selection, routining, and audience management.

In addition to sharing my unabashed opinion, we might offer a book review, point you in the direction of a column or article worth reading, or even recommend a live or video magic performance worth viewing and learning from.

As you can see, an awful lot happens between the tricks. I hope you'll spend a few minutes checking out the column each month. You may find something that makes you a better magician. You may find something that you completely disagree with. But I'll try to make sure you'll always find something that makes you think about how you perform your magic. I'm always open to feedback, ideas, or suggestions for future columns. Don't be shy.

Email me at jonstrum@gmail.com



At the Santa Ana River Brewing Company



On Saturday April 19th a group of magicians met at the Santa Ana River Brewing Company. Under the leadership of George, we had Kevin, Marshall, Joji, Brad, Alan, Paul C. David and Cliff all gather to entertain the beer drinkers there for an anniversary event. While your newsletter editor originally went as a simple reporter, he did find a bag of zip ties that someone left on the table. That was a "Cha-ching" moment and he did perform escapes using them.

Most of the performances were card effects, though Brad did defeat a patron using the "fast and Loose" effect. Paul Case did an excellent silk effect. That left his audience puzzled.

George apparently is used to performing at this venue, and that was how he managed to get us invited to perform at this event.

As 5 pm was getting close, a group came in with young children in tow. Alan found success in doing some kids magic for them.

Marshall was probably the biggest crowd pleaser at the event, entertaining his audience with packet tricks.

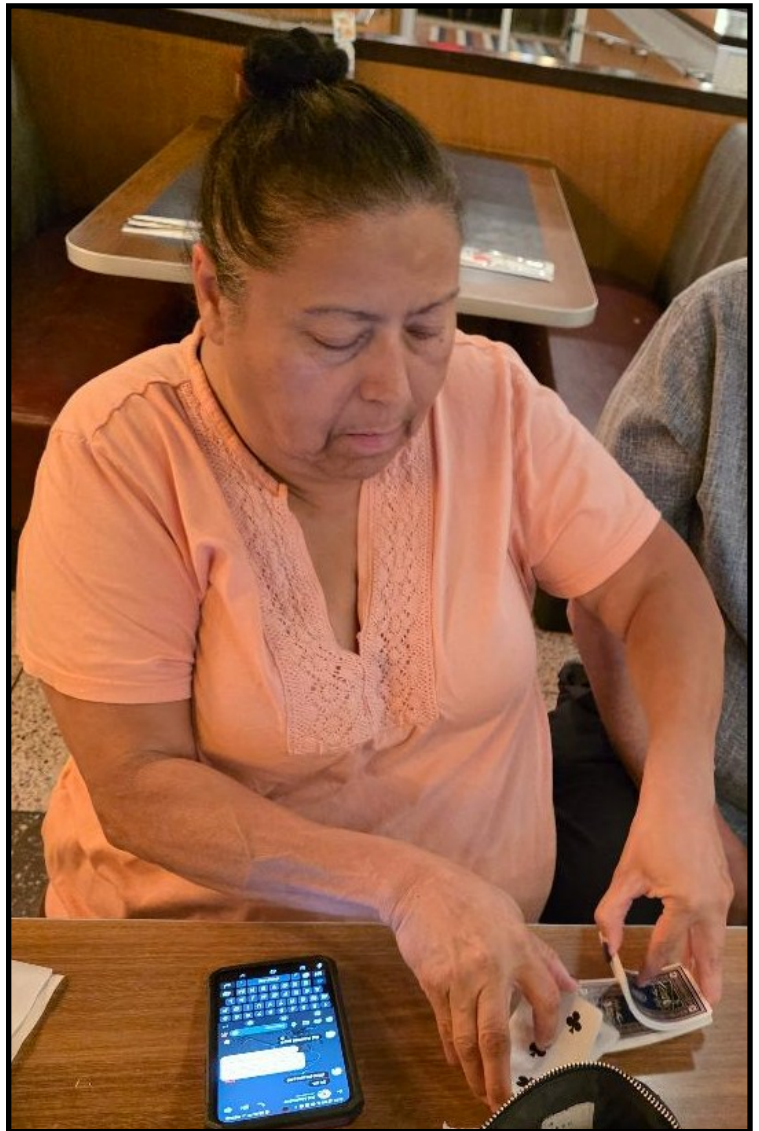


Pre-meeting Workshop

Our lecturer Rich Cowley volunteered to lead our Pre-meeting workshop, showing his version of the effect Triumph and the moves that go into it. He made a strong point about going into the psychology of how to handle the cards in the eyes of your audience. He taught some specific methods in holding cards including when to use each grip and why. He showed us some pitfalls of card handling that many magicians often fall into. It comes down to don't run if no one is chasing you. Rich put his years as a magic teacher to work in guiding our members in performing the moves to the effects he was showing.



April Sessioning



join us for a Ring 96
Session of Sessioning

Monday, May 26th at 7 pm.

Hof's Hut in Seal Beach

**Just buy dinner at Hof's,
and bring your cards,
coins, or other close up magic.**

In March we had seven of us at the session.

Will you be there next month?

**Note: This is not meant to be a social
gathering, it is meant to be a magical
gathering. Showing a magic effect is required.**

See you there!



<http://hofshut.com/locations/seal-beach>

12489 Seal Beach Blvd.

Seal Beach, CA 90740

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World-class illusionists come together for an incredible Broadway-scale show the whole family will love! Find Tix!

<https://bit.ly/4c56ozJ>



Fellowship of Christian Magicians

June 16th

Joshua Ng: Magic Castle strolling magician champ.



This is a man who set his magical goals, and then went out to make his dream come true!



Joshua Ng, also known as the "Hong Kong Sensation," is the current two-time consecutive champion of the Academy of Magical Arts' Strolling Magic Showdown. He brings his background and expertise in music, psychology, and theology to the art of magic. You can reach him at: joshnmagic@gmail.com.

Meetings held at OC Grace Church

12702 9th St • Garden Grove. 7 PM.

Non-Members \$10. Raffle open to all.

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The Ring 96 Annual



Close Up Competition!

**Our magicians will
perform magic
right in front
of you, and you
get to vote for
your favorite!**

**This is a free, family
friendly show
open to all ages.
Come enjoy the
magic!**

Saturday, May 17th. 7:00 PM

North Senior Center 3333 Saint Cloud Drive

Seal Beach CA 90740

Admission is free!

Ring 96 is the local chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians

www.ring96.com

Competition at the IBM Convention!

We are getting closer to convention time, and we look forward to seeing you and many other ring members in Houston.

One of the highlights of the convention is the magic contests. We are running 2 contests with some fantastic cash prizes (total prize pool is over \$9,000), with separate contests for close-up and stage magic.

How can you help?

Most folk enter the competition because someone (like you?) suggested it to them. Our ask is that you contact ring presidents, and/or anyone that you think would be interested, and be that person.

The competition is designed for everybody, professional, semi-pro or hobbyist. We want all our competitors to shine, and we do everything we can to help.

Benefits of entering the competition

1. You will grow from the experience of building a competition style act.
2. You will end up with a tight 8-minute show.
3. You will make new friends.
4. You will get expert help to tune your act for the competition.
5. Previous competitors have progressed to perform at The Magic Castle, The Chicago Magic Lounge, received local press and TV with help from our PR team, raised their profile in the Magic World, performed on P&T Fool Us and Masters of Illusion.

It's time to kick start some careers! Please help us spread the word.

Details about the competition can be found here <https://ibmconvention.com/contest/>

Please email IBMmagiccontest@gmail.com with any questions

Please help us make the 2025 contest the best it can be.

Lady Sarah and Keith Fields
Contest Chairs





The Ring 96 Annual Stage Competition!

Our magicians will
perform magic
on our stage and you
get to vote for
your favorite!

This is a free, family
friendly show
open to all ages.
Come enjoy the
magic!

Saturday, September 20th. 7:00 PM

North Senior Center 3333 Saint Cloud Drive

Seal Beach CA 90740

Admission is free!

Ring 96 is the local chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians

www.ring96.com

Famous Classic Poster



1912



May Birthdays



Do we have any May birthdays?

What month is your birthday?

Do we have it on file? Why not?

Quote of the month!

**"Why fool a magician
when you can fool
people that matter?"**

- David Fulde

Ring 96 Officers' Contact Info

President:	George Reis	Reis@imagingforensics.com
Vice President:	Kevin Papke	kevinjpapke@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	Jon Strum	Jonstrum@gmail.com
Secretary:	Cliff Gerstman	cliffg37@proton.me
Sgt. At Arms:	Judy Case	joods288@gmail.com
Past President:	John Piercy	thinkonthis@msn.com
Member At Large	Liam Ferris	lpferris@gmail.com
Member At Large	Wayne Mitchelltree	wmitcheltree@socal.rr.com

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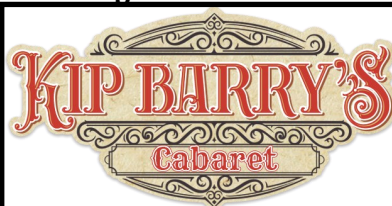
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www.penguinmagic.com



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Absolution Brewing Co.



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<https://www.absolutionbrewingcompany.com/>
 2878 Columbia Street, Torrance CA 90503

On the first Saturday of the
 month, multiple magicians

from The Magic Castle

will amaze sud-sippers from

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

with their sleight of hand.

(Call first to verify the event
 is happening)

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