



Magic Flash

Newsletter of the Society of American Magicians Assembly 72

Monthly Meetings

Assembly 72 of the Society of American Magicians meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. We meet at the Mission Oaks Recreation and Parks District's Senior Citizen Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive in Carmichael. Prospective members are encouraged to visit us anytime.

Assembly 72 Dues

If you have not paid your local dues for 2006 yet, please pay them as soon as possible. You can pay at the meeting or mail a check for \$20.00 to our Treasurer:

Allen Greenberg
5500 Oak Hill Court
Carmichael, CA 95608-6644

Each member must pay \$15.00 a year for membership to Mission Oaks in order for us to use their meeting facilities for free. Please show your 2006 receipt to Allen Greenberg.

2006 Assembly Officers

President

David Wright 916-944-8454
wright.davida@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President

Leland Eiben 530-790-7470
leenassoc@hotmail.com

Secretary

Viktor Berry 916-362-8355
viktor2@mac.com

Treasurer

Allen Greenberg 916-483-4345
greenberga@placersierrabank.com

Board Members at Large

Richard LaVergne

Richard Hill

Visit our web site at

www.magic1.org/sam72



Wright writes ...

Friendship and Learning

By David Wright, President

One of the main reasons many of us are members of SAM 72 is because we enjoy the comradeship that comes from our compeers. It's always nice to be able to bounce ideas off other members of the club, share our experiences and seek help in our efforts to evolve as magicians. Perhaps the single best social event we sponsor each year is our annual barbecue. Held in each summer, the annual barbecue affords us the opportunity to get together in a less formal setting than the monthly club meeting hall. It is a time for relaxation and enjoyment of each other's company. Many bring family and friends. The food and entertainment is always great. This year our annual barbecue will be held on June 24th at the home of Dick LaVergne at 699 Morris Way, Sacramento. I hope all of you can make it.

At our next club meeting, we will hold a round table discussion on learning magic through books and DVDs. Many of you may have an opinion on which is the better medium for learning tricks. On the one hand, you may think it is better to watch the trick performed by its creator to learn it properly. On the other hand, originality may be lost when the novice learns by copying the creator's style. Those that learn through books are forced to come up with individual interpretations of how the trick is performed. Patter is often missing when the trick is explained in a book. Whether you favor books or DVDs, the discussion at our next meeting should be lively and thought provoking. Don't miss this special event.

At our last meeting, a quorum of members voted to move our monthly club meetings to the Ronald McDonald House in Sacramento. However, the fourth Wednesday of the month is not an option for us at the new location. Therefore, we need to decide on the next best day in which to meet each month. At this time, we have a choice between the fourth Tuesday of the month and the fourth Thursday of the month. We will be voting between these two alternate days at our next club meeting. Your vote is important to us. Please try to make this business meeting.

The performance theme for the next meeting is Close-up Magic. Everyone should have a trick that they can do for this theme. Prizes will be awarded for the best performer of the night. Your presence is always welcome. Come and share your friendship and learn.



Minutes of the May 24, 2006 Meeting and Important Announcements

**By Viktor Berry and
Roscoe, the Magic, Giant, German Shepherd Wonder Dog,
Editors**

President **David Wright** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. We were pleasantly surprised to have two special guests attending, **Scott Nelson and his wife**. Scott was a member of SAM 72 a couple of years ago. **David Wright** welcomed them to the meeting and thanked Scott for donating space on his computer and hosting our web site on the Internet for the last few years at no charge. The Nelsons live in the South Bay Area and have a long commute when they manage to make it up to Sacramento. Hopefully they will be able to visit us again soon.

Treasurer **Allen Greenberg** reported that we have \$3,34.98 in the Assembly coffers.

David Wright recounted the events of the night before the meeting where eight members and several guests met at the **Ronald McDonald House** to tour the facility and hold to a streamlined meeting. The facilities were perfect – the room could handle our meetings and most lectures, it is air conditioned, has complete kitchen facilities, a large TV and DVD Player and lots of parking available. It is just a few blocks off of Highway 50 and just a few minutes from Downtown Sacramento.

Several members performed magic to the theme of *McDonalds*. We were treated to some very amusing examples of how magicians can make simple (but brilliant) changes to a routine to fit a specific theme. The big winners were two very young and talented magicians from Elk Grove who put together a routine they performed to music. They even brought in a great illusion with a McDonald's theme.

A long discussion followed about moving our meeting place back to Sacramento to the Ronald McDonald House. It was suggested that we try to develop more of a separate identity from IBM Ring 192, and since magic clubs were already serving Placerville, Elk Grove and Carmichael, we should return to Sacramento and market the Assembly to

potential members unwilling to drive to the other cities. A vote was taken and the members present unanimously voted to move our meetings to the Ronald McDonald House. The fourth Wednesday is not available, but we were told the fourth Tuesday was. That day seemed to work for everyone present except for possibly one person.

Letters went out to all of the members of Assembly 72 who did not attend the May meeting to keep them informed and request their input. They were also advised that we were told we had a choice of the fourth Tuesday or fourth Thursday of the month. All of the members who have responded to the letter so far chose the fourth Tuesday as the day they wanted to meet. Anyone who has questions, comments or complaints should call President **David Wright** for further information.

David announced that the **Annual SAM/IBM Stand-Up Competition** was scheduled for August 9th (IBM night) and they should be thinking about their routines.

Rick Hill presented an awesome workshop about the life and career of John Ramsay and the incredible amount of magic that was created by him. Many coin and card sleights and inventions of Ramsay were performed at the meeting, although it wasn't known until the workshop just how prolific his contribution to magic was.

LeRoy Goodenough taught his "flurry" of short routines including Coin From Ear, Coin Through Pocket, Coin Out of Pocket, Coin Through Hand and Coin In & Out of Elbow.

Next on stage was **John Robertson** who treated us to his version of Roth's Coins Across.

V.P. Leland Eiben demonstrated his Four Ace Change From Red to Black.

David Wright showed us his "Happy Deck" with appearing and disappearing happy faces.

Scott Nelson demonstrated and taught the group his stunt using two wine bottle corks.

John Iacono taught everyone David Blaine's trick rubbing ashes on his arm to reveal a chosen card.



How To Win A Magic Competition

By Quentin Reynolds

Remember, the Annual SAM/IBM Stand-Up Competition is coming up on August 9th

If you have ever thought of going in for a magic competition, I have a few suggestions for you worth considering. While I haven't a foolproof formula, I estimate my plan is ninety percent fail-safe in getting you placed, and a seventy percent chance of getting First Place.

My plan is formulated from years of watching magic competitions and figuring out who I would place and then comparing it with the judge's results. Incidentally, it is a good exercise to pretend you're a judge and place the acts in a competition. It helps you take into account things like showmanship, originality, skill and entertainment value.

But first a warning. There is a great danger that if you enter and win a magic competition that you end up believing you're a good magician for laymen. I have seen many magicians let winning a competition go to their head, and this can be anything from your annual club competition to a national convention. Now you may be a good magician, but winning a competition does not necessarily mean you are.

The first thing to notice when entering a magic competition is who are the judges. In most cases the judges are entirely made up of other magicians with the occasional lay judge, usually someone from the entertainment world.

Ninety-five percent of the time all the judges will be magicians. So the big question is, what impresses them?

Before I tell you what I believe impresses magicians at a convention, please take a moment to ponder that question. If you are judging a magic competition, what would impress you? What would make you give a performer First Prize?

My observations are that there are three things that impress magicians at conventions:

- 1) You fool them. Preferably fooling them badly.
- 2) You do something they know, but you do it really well.
- 3) You have material they can steal.

Assuming you have basic performing skills and a combination of those three points, you will get placed ninety percent of the time, and with better performing skills get you First Place seventy percent of the time.

Don't forget my earlier point – winning a magic competition does not necessarily mean that you are good at entertaining laymen. It does mean you are good at winning magic competitions.

©2006 Quentin Reynolds. Quentin Reynolds works as both magician and speaker. You can read about one of his programs at <http://www.speakingschools.com>

Who is Quentin Reynolds?

My name is Quentin Reynolds. Over thirty years ago I started entertaining children with magic and puppets and for many years that was my main income. In the early 1990s I developed a mind reading show for adults and started speaking on the subject of intuition, a subject I'd always been interested in and have a book published on the topic.

As you will read shortly I developed this educational program in 1996 and found it was perfect for schools. I joined NSA (the US National Speakers Association) and later the PSA (the European Professional Speakers Association) where I became president of the Irish Chapter. I moved from Ireland to Manchester in 2003.

In 1999 I released on video one of my pet routines for children, Five Minutes With A Pocket Handkerchief, which received universal rave reviews and has found its way into the repertoires of many professionals. My lecture at the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas, Perform Like A Pro received equally excellent reviews, and my course for magicians on getting to pro level as a children's entertainer is selling throughout the world to delighted purchasers.

SAM 72 • 2006 Magic Calendar

DATE	PERFORMANCE THEME	WORKSHOP THEME
June 24 (Sat.)	Annual Barbecue	Dick LaVergne's home
June 28	Close-Up Magic	Books vs DVDs
July 26	Magazine Magic	Mentalism
August 9 <i>IBM Night</i>	Annual SAM/IBM Stand-Up Competition	
August 23	Mentalism	What is Bizarre Magic?
September 16	SAM/IBM Community Show	<i>Date subject to change</i>

Find our Assembly activities in the Sacramento Bee's web site at
<http://ourtown.sacbee.com/SocietyofAmericanMagiciansAssembly72>

The Magic Flash

Society of American Magicians

Sacramento Assembly 72

Viktor Berry, Secretary

2827 Tiber Drive #37

Sacramento, CA 95826-2533



Next meeting:

June 28 • 7:00 P.M.

Close-Up Magic!

Workshop – Books vs. DVDs



John Iacono demonstrates his rubber band artistry.



Genni the Genie unlinks the rings.