



# The Illusion

Dayton Magic Club IBM Ring 5 Newsletter



January 2009

Volume 8 Issue 1

Next Meeting will be  
January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM  
February meeting is the 13<sup>th</sup>

## JANUARY THEME

January Theme is brought to you by Bill West. The theme is "Dust Off The Rust". The idea is to present a trick that you once liked and did, but that you haven't done in some time

## FEBRUARY THEME

February Theme is brought to you by Wally Walendzak. The theme is "Magnetic Magic", the idea is to present a trick that uses one or more magnets or magnetic forces, real or perceived.

## WHAT'S IN The Illusion

2009 Sign-up Lists	pg 1
Monthly Themes	pg 1
Ring Officers	pg 1
Youth Workshop	pg 1
Thought of the Month	pg 1
Who Did What in 2008	pg 2
December Ring Report	pg 2
Optical Illusion	pg 2
Magic & Stuff Coming Up	pg 3
Things You Might Not Know	pg 3
Brain Teasers	pg 3
This Month in Magic	pg 4
Magic in the News	pg 4

## 2009 SIGN-UPS

### Trick of the Month

January	Bill West
February	Wally Walendzak
March	Al Tokarsky

### Refreshments (Snacks/Drinks)

January	Wally Walendzak / Barry Secret
February	John Love / Wally Walendzak
March	Bill West / Dave Truesdell

## YOUTH WORKSHOP

The Youth Workshop will now start at 7:30PM. Any youth members who would like to attend the workshop should be at the church by 7:25PM.

## 2009 DUES ARE DUE

Remember that Ring 5 membership dues (\$10 for adults, \$5 for youth) for 2009 were due before or at our January meeting. Paying your dues allow you to remain a member in good standing. If you did not pay your dues then you are not allowed to vote for **anything**.

## 2009 ELECTIONS

It's almost time for election of new officers so let Jessica or Barb know if you're willing to run for these positions.

## RING 5 OFFICERS 2007-08

President	Jessica Reed	937-456-1330
Vice President	John Collier	937-427-0498
Secretary	Barb Pfeifer	937-433-8604
Treasurer	Jim Karns	937-416-8696
Sgt-at-Arms	Al Tokarsky	937-232-8780
Board Members	Scott Miller, Oran Dent, Dave Davis	
	Fred & Millie Witwer, Larry McMechan	
<b>The Illusion</b> Editor	Dave Davis	937-372-3945

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

**EVER WONDER IS BONELESS CHICKEN CONSIDERED TO BE AN INVERTEBRATE?**

## HOW TO CONTACT THE EDITOR

Phone: 937-372-3945 E-mail: [magicdave937@hotmail.com](mailto:magicdave937@hotmail.com)

## SANDY SHANER IS SELLING THE SHOP

ABRACADABRA Costume and Magic Shop is for sale. The building and the business. If you need any particulars call her at 222-6275 or 461-6984

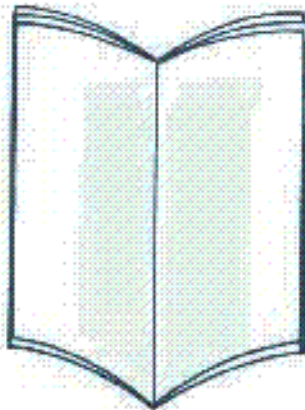
## WHO DID WHAT IN 2008

Month	Trick of the Month	Theme	Refreshments: Snack	Refreshments: Drinks
January	Scott Miller	Book Report	Scott Miller	Bill West
February	Bill West	Openers, Middles, Closers	Millie Witwer	Millie Witwer
March	Mike Herrick	Out Of Your Pocket	John Love	John Love
April	Dave Davis	Soft Magic	Dave Davis	Dave Davis
May	Bill Alexander	Effects from Linking Ring	Bob Pfeifer	Barb Pfeifer
June	Al Tokarsky	Glass	Wally	Oran Dent
July	John Collier		Bill West	John Collier
August	Wally	Kids magic	Wally (Dessert)	Bring Your Own
September	Lecture	N/A	Al Tokarsky to Pick Up and reimbursed?	Al Tokarsky to Pick Up And reimbursed?
October	Jessica Reed	Surprise workshop	Millie Witwer	Matthew D. Stanley
November	(banquet)	(banquet)	(banquet)	(banquet)
December	Scott Miller	Holiday Magic	Reeds	McMechan's

## RING REPORT DECEMBER 2008

Well there is no ring report.

## OPTICAL ILLUSION



***Is The Book Looking Towards You... Or Away From You?***

What do you see?

## MAGIC & STUFF COMING UP

SCAM	Columbia, SC	1/16 to 1/17/09
Magifest	Columbus, OH	2/5 to 2/7/09
World Magic Seminar	Las Vegas, NV	3/1 to 3/4/09
Abbotts Close-up Convention	Colon, MI	3/13 to 3/14/09
Hank Lee Cape Cod Magic Conclave	Falmouth, MA	4/17 to 4/19/09
International Battle of Magicians	Canton, OH	4/30 to 5/2/09
IBM Convention	Nashville, TN	6/30 to 7/4/09
SAM Convention	Buffalo, NY	7/15 to 7/18/09

## THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW

- The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%.
- The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.
- The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,700.
- The average number of people airborne over the US any given hour: 61,000.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair

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## BRAIN TEASERS

### January Brain Teasers

- 1) Rearrange the following letters to give two different 11-letter words

**A C D E E I N O R S T**

- 2) Replace the question mark by the correct mathematical signs to make the expression equal to 99

$$16 ? 12 ? 2 ? 3 = 99$$

- 3) What do the following words have in common?

**TO BACK OFF SQUARE SAIL**

- 4) Complete these words by inserting the same three letters in each

**TE---ER S---ET EAR---E**

### Answers to December Brain Teasers

- 1) Rearrange the letters of the following phrase to give the title of a 1975 movie

**EIGHTEEN ACTORS IN** (*The Eiger Sanction*)

- 2) There is a logical pattern to the following series of numbers. What are the next three numbers in the series? **15 21 25 27 33 35 39**

*45 49 51 The series consist of 2 digit odd numbers excluding prime numbers*

- 3) What do the following words have in common?

**BEAGLE BROOK STEAL SCOOT STERN**

*(Removing the first letter leaves the name of a bird)*

- 4) Here are the names of four modern playwrights with vowels, spaces and punctuation removed. Who are they?

**HRLDPNTR NLSMN GNHL JRNTN.**

*(Harold Painter, Neal Simon, Gene Healy, Joe Renton)*

# Happy New Year

## THIS MONTH IN MAGIC

❖ **Bill Bixby** born January 22, 1934

❖ **John Carney** born January 23, 1958

❖ **Persi Warren Diaconis** born January 31, 1945

❖ **George Joseph Kresge, Jr** born January 12, 1935

## MAGIC IN THE NEWS

### **Magic Man: World Champion Magician**

#### **Rick Merrill**

Rick Merrill is rummaging around in his kitchen, looking

for the makings of magic. A minute ago, he asked us to pick a card from a deck but not tell him what it was. (Sshhh -- it's the 3 of hearts.) "Let's see," he mutters, opening a drawer.



"A spoon, a newspaper, maybe a pen and ..." He looks around the counter. "Car keys," he decides. He sets the stuff down on the kitchen table. "Pick two," he instructs. "Take one in each hand." OK. The spoon and the keys. "Now lay one down," he says. Let's keep the spoon. (So far, this isn't impressive.) Then Merrill picks up that day's edition of The Grand Rapids Press, pulls out the classified section and points out an ad he placed the day before. It reads: "Hi, Terri. You picked the 3 of hearts and the spoon. Your pal, Rick." Merrill is the ultimate in "How did he do that?" But this is far from his best trick. "You're fish in a barrel," he says congenially. (No offense taken.) When he's at the top of his game, Merrill, 32, is wowing the best magicians in the world. Five things to know about Rick Merrill:

- He can't always make his food disappear -- Mr. Magic is a picky eater. "I spent a whole weekend in Japan and ate nothing but animal crackers,

granola bars and Coca-Cola." He doesn't drink alcohol, coffee or tea. "It all tastes God-awful," he says. "Give me a Coke, and life is great."

- He's performed on national television in Spain, Sweden, France, Japan and Belgium. He'll make his U.S. TV debut next month on "Masters of Illusion," a magic special airing on one of the Fox channels. The date hasn't been set.

- On weekends, he makes his kids pancakes shaped like Mickey Mouse. "With a whipped-cream smile," he says.

- Don't ask him to carve the turkey. He protects his hands -- a magician's livelihood. "I stay away from very sharp knives," he says. "I don't use a chain saw. I'm one broken arm away from canceling a bunch of gigs."

- A sports nut, he's a chronic ESPN watcher. When he played college basketball for Taylor University, he held the school record for most 3-pointers in a game. He made eight.

He's the world champion of close-up magic. He won the title at the last International Federation of Magic Societies' World Championship of Magic competition in Stockholm, Sweden. The competition, considered the Olympics of magic competitions, is held every three years and draws the best magicians from around the world. Merrill was only the fourth American ever to win the Grand Prix award -- "the most coveted prize in magic," says Eric Eswin, president of the

International Federation of Magic Societies. The first American ever to win it was Lance Burton, who has a show at the Monte Carlo Casino in Las Vegas. Since winning the prestigious Grand Prix, Merrill has traveled the world to perform: Spain, Sweden, Russia, England, France, Japan, South Korea, Denmark, Italy and Portugal. He already has gigs booked in 2010. "The magic just happens in his fingers," Eswin says in an e-mail from the Netherlands. "His act amazes and entertains. He has gained a place in the group of best magicians in the world." His magic is astounding. A coin is in his fingers -- then it's gone. He pulls Sharpie markers out of thin air. He's holding a yellow pencil. Shazam! It's red. Here's a coin -- bam! Now it's a marker. You don't dare blink. Press Photo/T.J. Hamilton Coverage: Merrill tells how his dad was in the hospital, gravely ill with kidney and liver problems, when he found out he would be on the cover of Genii magazine, a popular publication for magicians. "It's a magazine my dad has been reading for 30 years," he says. "When I found out I got on the cover, he was sick. We thought he was gonna die and had, like, four days to live. The editor rushed a copy to me. I took it to him in the hospital." His dad survived. "He's always telling me how proud he is of me, which is more meaningful to me than any trophy I've ever won." At the end of his eight-minute act at FISM, 3,000 magicians gave him a standing ovation. "I fooled

some well-known magicians," Merrill says happily. "For them to say, 'Man, I don't know how you did that ...'" He grins. After the FISM win, Lindsay says, "it was a whirlwind. "Managers started calling him, wanting to work with him," she says. "We realized there's no manual for this. Does he quit his job? Do we need to move?" Suddenly, Merrill was traveling the world to perform. She tells of his trips to Asia, where "they take magic really seriously." "People are asking for his autograph, girls are crying," she says. "At conventions, everybody wants to shake his hand and talk to him. Then he comes home and he's working at the food brokerage and shoveling the driveway." "I'm pretty low-key," he says. "There are probably people in my office who don't even know I do magic." He watches sports on TV, wrestles with his young sons on the living room floor and is drawn to mud puddles on rainy days. He's a Revolutionary War aficionado -- "a history/political nerd," Lindsay says -- who would love to retire to Georgetown, near Washington, D.C. He's a practical joker who once gave

his boss \$50 in gift cards for Christmas -- 10 cards worth \$5 each to high-end restaurants in town. When he travels to far-flung places around the globe for his magic, Merrill brings back souvenir refrigerator magnets for his mom. "Her fridge is the most hideous-looking appliance on the face of the Earth because of all the gaudy crap I've given her," he says. Lindsay tells of his care and sensitivity dealing with her mom, who lives with them since she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. "His success hasn't changed him," Lindsay says. "As unbelievable as this has been, at the core, he hasn't changed. He's very genuine, and he has a huge heart." Merrill does several shows each year for nonprofits and ministries that can't afford his performance fee. Don't try booking him for your kid's birthday party. This guy is high end, with fees as high as \$6,500 a show. He says wonder is priceless. "A lot of people I perform for have the answers to everything," he says. "They can say, 'Hey, we're down 4 million -- I know how to fix that.' For 40 minutes, they shut their cell phones off and their Blackberries. "To see some rich

CEO melt down to a kid -- that's the fun part. It's great to let people feel that wonder. That 'holy cow.'" Last year, he was invited to Paris to perform on a popular French TV variety show. Lindsay got to go, too. "She's always thought magic was kind of dumb," Merrill says. "They flew us both out. We were standing on top of the Eiffel Tower, looking out at Paris at night. I said, 'I guess those card tricks aren't so stupid now, are they?'" He grins. "It was my best moment."

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### **Paul Kozak Opens New Show**

Paul Kozak after his opening night performance on December 25 at the Comedy Stop located at the Tropicana Casino in Atlantic City. The "Kozak The Magician" show will appear daily for a scheduled five-year run. The afternoon show is billed as a "Family Friendly Comedy Magic Show" which currently runs at 6pm and will later move to a 3pm time slot

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Checkout the Ring 5 Web site: <http://www.geocities.com/DaytonMagicRing5>  
You'll find the Ring reports and The Illusion on the site in the News section which is updated monthly. If you want your site linked to the Ring's please email the URL to the Webmaster at: [DaytonMagicRing5@Yahoo.com](mailto:DaytonMagicRing5@Yahoo.com)