

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – February 2020

The *Gulf Coast Magicians Guild* meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at **5:30 PM until 8:00 PM** at the **Bayview Senior Center**, located at: **2000 E Lloyd St, Pensacola, Florida**

GCMG Website:

thegulfcoastmagiciansguild.com

GCMG Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thegulfcoastmagiciansguild>

Please send Newsletter submissions to Bruce

Walstad at: brucewalstad@gulftel.com

Webmaster and Facebook Administrator:

Javier Arrillaga

magicjavi3@gmail.com

Club Officers

- President: Bruce Walstad
- Vice President: Beau Broomall
- Secretary: Bill Metsch
- Treasurer: Perry Vath

March Meeting

How many times has each you been asked to do a trick and you have nothing in your pockets? That will be the theme of our March meeting, Impromptu Magic. Bring along one (or two) of your favorite impromptu effects.

MISS A MEETING, MISS A LOT

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have a submission for our newsletter? If you do, email it to Bruce Walstad at brucewalstad@gulftel.com

Spotlight on Members

We need members to write a bio about themselves for our Spotlight newsletter feature. Think about, how difficult can it be to write up something about yourself and your magic?

Club Historian

We now have a club historian, Bill Monroe!



This is a very important function of our club, preserving the history for future members.

Bill will be keeping the history of our club in the form of photo albums. They will include newsletters, photos and everything else club related. If you take photos at our meetings, please email them to Bill at:

billmonroe2015@gmail.com

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Beverages & Snacks at our Meetings

The club will continue to provide coffee, soft drinks and bottled water. We are encouraging all members to bring along a snack items that can be shared with all. Thanks!

Club Library

Our new club librarian **Zach Ready** reports he found a program that will keep an inventory of our books, it describes the book (title, author, etc.) keep track of the books and who borrowed them. We will also be linking the library program to the club website so members can find books they are interested in and ask Zach to bring it to the next meeting. Books will be loaned for two months. It should also be noted that a few members made contributions to the library with about 20 books at the last meeting.

Donations Needed



Do you have a book or DVD or two you no longer need or want? Donate it to the CGMG library. Zach will be happy to accept your donations.

Our library will also be available to our youth members, in our Future of Magic program.

Roundtable Discussion

Bill Mikulas had excellent idea; have a 10-15-minute round-table discussion about a particular magic related topic. For example, performing magic for children. Members who do this type of magic could share their experiences, what they have learned, tips and hints and so on. We will do this at our February meeting. The topic will be: **Performing for Children.**

Black Lips and Green Teeth?



Well, it turns out the food coloring in the frosting on our anniversary cake was quite potent. Within minutes of when we started eating the cake, we all started noticing that every member who had eaten the cake, had black lips and green teeth....

Al Grimm topped everyone with his green and black mustache. I have to say, it was quite funny with everyone looking at each other to see who had green teeth and black

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lips. A few photos of members were taken, but they were deleted by request.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to **Emily Walstad** and **JJ Walstad** for hauling our stuff in and out of the library, helping set up the room, passing out all the giveaway items, raffle prizes during the January meeting and helping clean up afterwards.

Monthly Raffles

First, thanks to all our members who have been purchasing raffle tickets and donating books and tricks to our monthly raffle. As you know, our club relies on our monthly raffles for income to pay for our lectures and other basic club expenses.

Another Great Idea for Our Meetings!

Dr. Henry Porter had a very interesting idea about members making video tapes of themselves performing magic. However, you could make your video either doing a trick legitimately or, use some sort of trick photography. The video would then be shown to members to see if members could figure out if the effect was real or used trick photography. We will be doing this at our April Meeting. So, you will have some time to give this some thought to this, make your video and let's have some fun with this.

April Meeting

The theme for our April Meeting will be a trick from the **Tarbell Course in Magic**. We

have done this in the past and it was always interesting and fun. If you don't have a copy of the Tarbell Course In Magic, I believe our library has the complete course.

Creative Magic Contest II

At our January Meeting we passed out the props for our next creative magic contest. This time the 10 members, who elected to join in got a small cardboard box, a small flashlight and four plastic cockroaches. This will be very interesting to see what our members can come up with those props....

Those participating will be presenting their tricks/effects at our February meeting.

Wait until you see what we have for our next creative magic contest. It will be quite interesting and fun.

Anniversary Coffee Mugs



At our January meeting, each member attending was presented with our 15th anniversary coffee cup.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, see Bruce at a future meeting to get yours.

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If you want a second one, we will be selling them for mere \$5.00 each. We will also be including some as prizes in our monthly raffle.

At our January meeting, *Emily Walstad* cleaned up with Raffle Prizes. Emily won 6 or 7 raffle prizes. Well done Emily.

Just for Fun

By *Bruce Walstad*

Silverware Thief: Go to a dollar store and purchase several sets of \$1.00 place settings. When preparing to leave a restaurant, place the silverware in your shirt or coat sleeve. Hold your arm up or bend your hand to keep the silverware from falling out. When you get to the cashier or near the manager while exiting, release the silverware and let it fall to the floor. Have a real sheepish or stunned look on your face and step back from the fallen silverware, then walk out quickly.

What is Cheesecake? Next time you are at a restaurant when desert time comes, ask your server if they have cheesecake. If they say yes, ask what “Cheesecake” is. Tell them you are from Oklahoma and you do not have cheesecake there. Most servers are not 100% sure what cheesecake is, nor how it is made or exactly what is in it. Keep asking questions while they are describing it like, “What kind of cheese is in it? American? Swiss? Is it baked? Is it a pie or cake? Just keep asking questions... Often, they will bring over another server or manager to help explain. If done properly, about half of the time you can get a piece of free cheesecake to sample.

Big Winner

The Three Traveling Magicians

Three magicians stop off at a hotel while traveling to the magic convention. The room clerk tells them all rooms are \$30.00. Trying to save money, the magicians agree to share a room. Each magician pays the clerk \$10.00. The magicians then go to their room.

A few minutes later the room clerk realizes that he forgot to give the magicians the discount of \$5.00, making the room only \$25.00. The room clerk gives five (5) \$1.00 bills to the bellboy and instructs him to refund the five dollars to the magicians.

As the bellboy is walking to their room he thinks, “How can those three magicians split five dollars equally?” The bellboy has a solution. He pockets two of the \$1.00 bills. When the bellboy gets to the room, he explains they were overcharged for the room and hands each of the magicians a \$1.00 bill.

Each of the three magicians has paid \$9.00 for his share of the room.

- $3 \times \$9.00 = \27.00
- The bellboy kept \$2.00.
- $\$27.00 + \$2.00 = \$29.00$
- Where did the other \$1.00 go?

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The answer might be given at the March Meeting.



Spotlight on Bill Metsch

Like many of us, I got interested in magic at a young age after seeing my first magician perform was at my elementary school. I can't recall his name, but he had a pretty assistant that captivated my young mind. They did all the big illusions and as I watched him pull a rabbit out of his hat, I thought to myself "***I need to know how it was done***".

While at a local mall, I saw a magician doing standup. He put a needle through a balloon, I was so amazed, I ask my mom; ***How this was possible? Where can I go to learn how to do such?*** She pointed me towards the library! I checked out some books on magic, and tried to read them, but found them very confusing. I was very disappointed.

Then, while watching a TV show ***The Magic of Doug Henning***, I was completely hooked! "***I needed to know how everything was done***".

My first magic prop was a magic mirror box, a Christmas gift one year, a square paper

box with a small door on the front and top. I still have it to this day.

With no internet or DVDs like today to learn from, I went back to the library and bookstores where I found that book that would change everything, ***Mark Wilsons***

Complete Course in Magic. Now I could read and understand everything. Then another book that helped me a great deal was by Bill Tarr, ***Now You See It, Now You Don't!***

Next, I found a magic shop that was close enough to home, I could ride my bike to and from, ***Mr. Bills Jokes and Pranks*** in OKC. The man inside was full of knowledge, Mr. Bill, how ironic. He showed and taught me magic tricks after school and let me work one summer behind the counter demonstrating tricks for customers. I worked for no pay, just magic tricks and knowledge.

Mr. Bill invited me to an ***IBM Ring 46*** meeting where I meet some great minds, Seymour Davis being one of them and another duo Love-Hamptine, the act I watched in the mall years before.

My mom performed magic also! Being a single mom with three boys, she joined the IBM and started doing kids birthday parties to make ends meet. It was fine with me as we could bounce magical ideas off one another. We went to all the lectures, ***David Ginn*** being my first and all magic meetings that we could. I found myself building props as we could not afford to buy them. Having

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worked at a magic shop helped in this. The first thing I built for the show was a performance folding table.

Those were good times back then. I performed kids magic on a local cable TV show from time to time, did a show for a governor of OK and performed on the ***Jerry Lewis MS TV Marathon***.

The pay from my part-time job, went to buy magic.

At a young age started collecting magic, which I still do to this day.

After getting married I did kid shows, birthday parties, daycares and kid events on the weekend, whenever I could, to make some extra money.

Then I found a group of magicians in Pensacola, the ***Gulf Coast Magicians Guild***, a great bunch of people. I promptly joined the ***GCMG, IBM*** and ***SAM***. Since then, I have had many great years participating in the club and club related functions, whether it be the round table, shows, meetings, lectures and serving as a club officer.

Met and lost a lot of wonderful, friends and magicians in this group over the past 15 years. The GCMG fellowship has been pleasantly rewarding.

Not being a performer, I decided to quit trying to perform, as it was not right for me. Along with arm, neck and back surgery's it is really hard and unenjoyable. So, I am just sticking with studying, researching, playing,

collecting, building, repairing and sharing my knowledge with other magicians.

In the end it all comes down to that little boy saying, "***I need to know how that is done***". It still holds true today. Parts of this biography are based on true events others not so much...

Minutes from the January 2020 Meeting

Submitted by Bill Metsch

A new year; a fresh start for the Gulf Coast Magicians Guild, even with the regular meeting date rescheduled, a week late the Guild celebrated its 15th Anniversary.

The 26 members and guests attending this meeting were in for a treat. President **Bruce Walstad** called the meeting to order, conducting a fast-paced business presentation including old business, new business and club announcements. We will be back at BayView Senior Center starting February; **Al Grimm** discussed the Future in Magic program for kids. Club Librarian **Zach Ready** talked about his plans for the library; **Daniel Ricks** gave us the rundown on Magic Around Town; **Dr. Henry Porter** pitched the idea of members making videos doing magic with and without trick photography and seeing if we could figure out if the routine was magic or just a video trick; **Bill Mikulas** idea for a 10-15 minute round-table discussion on a magic topic so as we can learn from each other's experiences just

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a small synopsis. All the info will be in our monthly newsletter.

We would also like to welcome **Bill Monroe** as the new club Historian. **Bruce Walstad** and **Beau Broomall** presented a few more Members Certificates. Each member was then presented with a GCMG coffee mug to celebrate the 15th Anniversary, along with some really cool optical illusions.

We also passed out props for another creative magic contest (a flashlight, four plastic cockroaches and a small box) this is going to be interesting. With the help of **Bruce Walstad, Zack Ready, Emily** and **JJ** we held a huge raffle with 35 plus magic related items. Many lucky members took home some great magic, books and DVDs.

At the break it was time for coffee and our 15th anniversary cake, it was scrumptious, however the food coloring in the frosting was quite potent. Within minutes of when we started eating the cake, we all started noticing that every member who was eating the cake, had black lips and green teeth! **Al Grimm** topped everyone with his green and black mustache.

Bruce did a teach-in on the 1089 effect and taught everyone the old torn wallpaper joke. Then for the magic, the theme was classic magic...

Al Grimm; shared with us his walk around bag, then performed his take on the Passe

Passe bottles using items bought from the dollar store, very clever.

Beau Broomall; did a linking ring routine with 3 rings to music that was so smooth it about brought tears to my eyes.

Bruce Walstad; wowed us with the professor's nightmare, using large yellow rope extremely visual.

Zack Ready; amazed us with a three-coin trick, using three coins, really three coins, or maybe we just imaged them, no three coins.

Ron Hudspeth; shared his story about a flight and a crazy compass.

Jason Simonds; visually vanished a red silk in his palm using Visine to get the red out.

Bill Monroe; did a looped finger gag, and a unique cut and restored rope routine where he used magic to cut the rope and let the scissors to fall to the ground.

Daniel Ricks; chop cup routine using a jigger and an olive ending up with the fixing for a good drink.

Once again, *"Miss a meeting you will miss a lot!"*

An Old One, but a Good One

Every day, the magician holds a magic show for the patrons on the cruise. The parrot sits on his shoulder throughout the act.

Eventually, after days of viewing these acts, the parrot starts to get the tricks behind them all. So, as the magician would carry on

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with his show, the parrot would ruin the act by exclaiming, “It’s in his sleeve!” or “It’s under his hat!” or “The assistant has it!”

One day, the cruise ship ends up hitting an iceberg while the magician and his parrot are asleep. They awaken to find themselves stranded on the iceberg and the ship gone. For days, the magician and parrot sit there, just staring at each other.

Finally, the parrot sighs, “Okay, I give. Where’s the boat?”



A Few Photos from our January Meeting



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