

Gulf Coast Magicians Guild

Hocus in Focus Newsletter – November 2019

The combined clubs of IBM Ring 287 and SAM Assembly 129

- Daniel Ricks
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The Gulf Coast Magicians Guild meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:45 PM until 7:45 PM at the Tryon Branch Library, located at: 1200 Langley Ave, 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

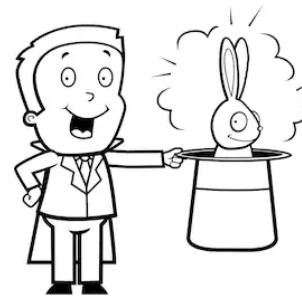
Board of Directors

- Isaac Brady
- Javier Arrillaga
- Beau Broomall
- Bill Metsch
- Al Grimm
- John Richardson
- Bruce Walstad



Our **December meeting** will be our annual family Christmas party meeting. Please bring snacks, beverages, Christmas themed magic and of course your family.

The theme for our **January meeting** will be our 15th year anniversary. The theme will be, your favorite “classic” magic trick.



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Youth Magic

We are working to reinstate our youth magic program, which will be named, ***The Future of Magic***. We need volunteers to work with our up and coming young magicians.

Please see Al Grimm if you wish to participate. We are still working out the

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details regarding dates, times and location.
More information to follow.



Card and Close Up Magic – This very special addition to the GCMG meets the 2nd of month at 7:00 PM at the Timberlake Mobile Home Park Clubhouse. Contact Daniel Ricks for each month's theme at: Tricksdaniel@Yahoo.com

GCMG 2020 Goals

- Reinstate IBM Ring 287 and SAM Assembly 287.
- Reach out to all past members and encourage them to rejoin.
- Increase the GCMG membership by at least 50%.
- Increase the number of members attending meetings by 50%.
- Create a monthly online newsletter.
- Create a new GCMG Website.
- Create a New GCMG Facebook page.
- Put on a public show in October.
- Form a youth group, ***The Future of Magic***, which Al Grimm has agreed to oversee.
- Host an Awards banquet.
- Have an annual auction

- Host a Christmas party for the club members and their families.
- Host a club family picnic.
- Host at least two lectures or workshops.

- Have creative magic contests.
- Have a "Teach-ins" at each meeting.
- Continue with the fund-raising raffles. Members will be encouraged to purchase raffle tickets and donate magic tricks and books.
- Get the club library better organized, with an up to date catalog of all books.
- Create a membership directory.
- Have a brief business meeting at each meeting.

thank
you!

Special Thanks

A big thank you to club member Jim Studebaker. Jim rejoined the GCMG in August and immediately insisted on donating to the club. Jim has sent the club, raffle tickets, membership certificates, presentation folders, a case to carry around the club's materials and other things. It should be noted, Jim was a longtime and very active member of the GCMG when he lived in Pensacola. His career took him to Oklahoma, where he still resides. We hope

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someday Jim will be able to attend a meeting.

However, we did find out what happened to the club's backdrop. As some of you know, years ago Harley Day donated a backdrop to the GCMG. The purpose was, if someone in the club was doing a show that a backdrop was needed, they could borrow it. It sat in

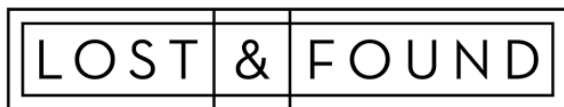
Javier Arrillaga

Another big, well actually huge, thank you to Javier. He has been working for the past few months of creating a brand-new web page for the GCMG. Javier had also built the new Facebook page for us. As many of you know, Javier is another longtime member of the GCMG. Javier seems to be one of those guys that will always step up and volunteer to help the club. Javier is another out of state members now, as he lives in Orlando, right next to Disney World. So, on behalf of the entire membership of the GCMG, thank you Javier for all you do for the GCMG!

my closet for years. Finally, someone borrowed it, Jim Studebaker.

Shortly thereafter, Jim moved to Oklahoma. Accidently the backdrop was packed up by the movers and shipped to Jim's new house in Oklahoma. Jim attempted to return the backdrop, but because it was housed in a large wooden crate, the shipping fee was over \$125.00. At that time, the club did not want to pay that amount and no one wanted to borrow it. So, it sat in Jim's garage for years.

Then a tornado struck near Jim's home, damaging his garage and much of the contents, including the backdrop. Jim shopped around trying to find a replacement for it but was unable to find one of the same size and construction. To make up for the backdrop, Jim purchased many needed things for the club, as was previously mentioned. Now, if we can just find the missing coffee urn.....



Missing Stuff

We are still searching for property that belongs to the GCMG. If you know the whereabouts of our coffee urn, table cover, name tags and black salesmen's case, please let us know.

Ideas for Meetings

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We would like to have each GCMG meeting fun, entertaining and magical. We will continue to hold raffles, have auctions, share

ideas, play games, host lectures, have fun and of course perform magic. So, if you have an idea for a theme for one of our upcoming meetings, let's hear from you.

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

GCMG History

As many of you know, Harley Day was the GCMG's historian. He did a fantastic job over the years collecting every report, newsletter, photo and club record.

After Harley's passing Bruce Walstad inherited the club's records in the form of a large stack of three ring binders. For the time being, Bruce will act as club historian and will bring a few of the binders to each meeting for members to view.

If anyone is interested in becoming the club historian, please let Bruce know.



Newsletter Submissions

Tip of the Month

Many years ago, when I started performing school assemblies on a regular basis, a pattern developed. Something broke, a button fell off, a screw needed tightening, the microphone batteries went dead, a speaker wire came loose and other things that needed my immediate attention.

So, I created my tool/emergency kit. I started off with a cigar box and eventually went with a regular toolbox.

So, what's in my tool/emergency kit? Screwdrivers, pliers, Scotch tape, electrical tape, extra batteries for my microphone, shoe polish, safety pins, flashlight, sewing kit, paper clips, extra shirt buttons, shirt studs, duct tape, extra wingnuts and bolts for my Zig-Zag Lady and backdrops, thumb tacks, lighter fluid, hand wipes, scissors, razor knife, hair brush, cigarette lighter, Band-Aids, electrical tape, business cards,

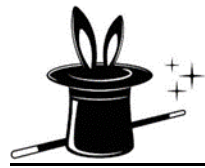
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pens, pencils, note pad, nail clipper, wire cutter and many of my small show props, such as my vanishing candles, and appearing canes.

I cannot tell you how many times this kit saved my show somehow or another. Do you have a tip for the “Tip of the Month”? If so, submit it to Bruce Walstad at brucewalstad@gulftel.com



Rebuilding the GCMG

Public Show: In past years our public show was a wonderful way for the GCMG to show off its membership. It was also a great fundraiser and one of the few events just about every member can be involved. We would like to have seven to eight acts. So, if you would like to perform, start thinking about what you will perform and come up with five to eight-minute routine. We will also need close-up performers to wander through the audience before the show. Then most importantly, we will need tickets sellers, ticket takers, usher and concession salespersons.

Open House: We hosted an Open House meeting several times over the years, with mixed results. The problem seemed to be, lack of publicity. We will need a volunteer

member, or members to oversee our 2020 Open House, get it publicized and create an agenda for the meeting. Possibly we could do this in March. Volunteers?

Club Picnic: This has always been one of our best club events. The food was always fabulous, and we all had a wonderful time. So, Bruce Walstad will again host the picnic at his home. We would most likely have it in June on a Sunday afternoon.

Teach In's: As Beau suggested, how about a Teach In at every meeting, or at most every meeting. We need a volunteer to oversee this and schedule members to conduct it. Once again, volunteers?

Awards Banquet: This is a great event to recognize and thank those members who go above and beyond for our club. Traditionally we would host this event in November and will continue to do so. We will go back to our previous system of points. Attend a meeting, receive “X” number of points. Volunteer for a committee or specific event, receive “X” number of points, serve of the board of directors, receive “X” number of points and so on. We will need to locate our previous point system to get the scoring started, beginning January 2020.

Lectures: Bruce Walstad has been in contact with a few lecturers including; *Andy*

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Dallas, David Ginn, Tyler Reid (yes, our own Tyler Reid) and a few others. Andy and David have already said they would lecture for us sometime during 2020. Anyone have any ideas for lectures?

2020: As you may have noted, the GCMG is in store for a very busy 2020. However, our club can only be as good as its membership. So, we will be counting on each and every member to contribute to our club in their own way.



Spotlight on Tyler Reid

Another longtime and very active member of the GCMG has also rejoined the club.

Despite living in Las Vegas, the second Tyler heard the club was reforming, he asked to rejoin the club. For those of you who don't know Tyler, he joined our club and was the first youth member. Here is his story in his own words...

So, a little bit about what I've been up to. I moved out of FL to upstate NY in late 2008. Went to SUNY Brockport for theater, and there I kind of fell out of magic for a while. I would still play around with close-up and do some card tricks every once in a while, but I

stopped paying attention to the news and the latest and greatest. Did a couple semesters of college then got caught up in financial aid paperwork.

Then my brother was in Vegas so after about 5 years in NY I decided it was time for a change. Came to Vegas in 2013 with no idea what I was going to do. Looking for a job, I randomly stopped into Houdini's Magic Shop at the Venetian and found out they were hiring. I put my application in online with my experiences in the IBM and GCMG and within 10 minutes I had a phone call and interview. Started to work for them at the NYNY

location and it was a snowball effect. I never realized how much I knew and understood magic from the years of learning with you guys.

So, I decided to take the next step and start performing. Doing open mics and gathering material, I put together and street busking show and took myself out to Fremont. With street performing and making connections at the shop, magic started to take over my life. I ended up quitting Houdini's and going into full time performing.

I've done local festivals and night clubs all throughout Vegas performing on the same bills as guys like Bizzaro and Chris Kenner (who produces Copperfield).

That all led me to meet a clown with tape on his face. 2016 AGT finalist Tape Face. Who now has a residency at Harrah's in the

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House of Tape theater. When he decided to start expanding his show, he liked some of my ideas, as I had been working with him since January. I do an opening 20 minutes before the show, 6 days a week and going strong.

*For the future, I'm working on putting together some promo material and taking my own show on the road. I have adopted the stage name of **Tyler Reid, Local Celebrity...***

I can honestly say I wouldn't be anywhere without the time I spent with you guys, and I'm eternally grateful for all my experiences and mentoring I received from the GCMG.

Minutes from the October 2019 Meeting

Submitted by Bill Metsch.

The October meeting was held at the Tryon Branch Library, President Daniel Ricks called the meeting to order with 15-16 members & guest present. Daniel started by telling us about upcoming events happening around the area & online, always a wealth of knowledge. He then went over club business which brought up the topic of club officers.

As the club bylaws state October is the month to elect new officers with some debate member Johnny Richardson proposed a slate of officer, Bruce Walstad president, Beau Broomall Vice President, Bill Metsch Secretary, Perry Vath Treasurer, Member Al Grimm seconded the slate then

held a vote with everyone hand in agreeance November will start a new chapter in the GCMG.

A lot to discuss on the upcoming year keep your eye out for the newsletter soon to come. Then we held a raffle with lot of magic and props to be had to the lucky winners thanks to everyone that bought tickets.

After the break and raffle the Spooky magic began Al Grimm started thing of with Dracula's head being used in a cups and head routine that was just killer. Then he proceeded to produce spooky items from an empty jack lantern followed by a sign illusion that might have got him in trouble. Bruce Walstad performed his version of the Switchboard/Lightboard. Daniel Ricks

followed by putting his life at risk with the help of Perry Vath they put on latex gloves Daniel proceeded by demonstrating the deadly acid he had brought by putting a drop on a balloon as we watching it explode he then put the acid in a shot glass followed by filling several others glasses with water Perry then mixed them up so no one knew where it was and then Daniel proceeded to drink then one at a time as members chose the glass to drink from the final glass was then poured into a container as we watched it foam up it was horrifying to watch (please don't try this at home) he got lucky thankfully.

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We then played a few rounds of the alphabet game most everyone participated in this very entertaining to say the least. Danial came up with a new game catchphrase for magicians several members had a go it made us all laugh as it was hysterical. Thanks for everyone that participated and made it fun see you next month.