International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 180, The Horace Bennett Ring, Richmond, VA

Report of Meeting April 8, 2015

Ring President Watt Hyer opened the April 2015 meeting with announcements of performance opportunities and followed them by discussing two products, the "Roughing Stick" and "Octopalm." He reminded us of the evening's topic, "Cell Phones," which also included related devices.

Mike Kinnaird began the presentations with a "book test" that used the calculator on his cell phone to generate a number that pointed to a page in a book. Mike was able to divine the first and last words on the indicated page. The effect is in the app store as "Magic Trick #3." Mike then produced his business card from his iPhone using "Card Now," which is sold for Android platforms as "Gotta Hand It to You."

Lou Dean then showed his handling of the business card production using an Android telephone. Lou then showed three other effects. "Houdini's Last Trick" allowed Lou to show that a freely named card was hidden in a Houdini family photograph. With "iForce" Lou asked a spectator to think of one of eight symbols. Lou doodled a figure on the screen and tabled his phone with its screen down. He asked the spectator to name the imagined figure. When Lou turned over his phone, the screen was displaying the imagined figure. With "Magic Trick #1" by Mikael Montier, Lou showed that he had identified the card of which a spectator had merely thought. He scratched the screen, and it acted like a scratch-off lottery ticket, revealing the named card.

Davis West presented "City Prediction" from Ellusionist, a prediction effect using a borrowed iPhone. Davis then showed how one could have magically appearing changes in screen background colors using the phone's built-in features. He then went off-topic to present a Lennart Green card routine in several parts. He then moved to "Advocate," a "Brainwave"-like effect.

Watt Hyer introduced a list of topics. He reminded us of Harry Gallant's "Wrong Number" routine – the "wizard" was telephoned, but the answerer said, "You have the wrong number," the chosen card was turned over, it said, "Wrong Number." Watt pointed out that old calculator tricks could now be done with the calculators on cell phones. He then showed "Magic Shuffle," where the cell phone substituted for a deck of cards to do an "Invisible Deck" bit. Next, he showed "Dazzler," where the cell phone could trigger a very bright flash.

Barry Mills went off-topic to give a poker demonstration with a story about a cheat who did bottom deals. He showed that a magician could accomplish the same result without dealing from the bottom.

Zachary Gartrell performed a Coin to Glass routine with Mike Kinnaird as his assistant. Mike put coins in a Mason jar and screwed on the lid. Zack passed the coins one by one from the jar into a glass.

Davis West returned to the performance area to show his new Three Card Monte routine. He used a deck of cards to hold the three cards. At the end the deck had changed its backs.

With the allotted time exhausted, Watt adjourned the meeting.