

Well our regular Ring Reporter, Bill Krupskas, always throws in a comment about my global travels. This month I get to write the column, because of all things, Bill's out of the country!

Our host this month was Bob Dorian and our topic was "Anything But Cards". Leading off was TJ Tanna, one of our junior ring members. TJ took today's technology to the limits by performing several eye popping routines with the use of his I phone. TJ produced a candy bar, drank some coffee, produced a coin and even took an x-ray of his hand! Nicholas Paul, the creator of the highly acclaimed effect "Thirteen", showed us why he is a real "Cracker Jack" by performing several routines using none other than a bag of Cracker Jacks! I think he took every variation of coin routine and modified it to use Cracker Jacks. We watched him make them vanish, appear, and travel hand to hand. I wonder how many bags Nick had to eat during rehearsals. Next up was Roy Miller. Roy once again proved that just because an effect is old or not purchased over the internet, it can still be great. Roy demonstrated this by performing the wonderful Fred Kaps version of magazine papers to dollar bills. Roy then performed one of the latest variations of that classic by performing Extreme Burn, turning one dollar bills into hundred dollar bills. Included in Roy's performance was a nice variation of Business Cardiographic, in which he predicted the type of wine that would be selected by a spectator. Bob Dorian then performed a very funny version of the sucker dye box; although that was not the original intent (you had to be there...). Bob managed to work his way out of the jam as only a true professional could. Bill White was next up, but he was speechless, especially after he speared his tongue with a pen! Harry Mandel performed a prediction effect based upon the board game Clue. He was followed by his son Zack who performed the cups and balls. That was a miracle in itself, as I don't think I have ever seen Zack perform without pasteboards in hand. Nice job Zack! Vinny Moccia entertained us with several rope routines, including the fastest knot in the world and the professor's nightmare. Vinny then performed the coin routine "Beswitched" using 4 half dollars and two sake cups. Chris Ward seemed to have "not gotten the memo" by showing up with nothing but cards! After the crowd turned on Chris, even to the point of making Chris remove his tie with cards on it, he got down to serious business. Chris managed to pull an eight ball out of a balloon, change a two dollar bill into two singles, and then perform a mis-made bill. Chris finished with a prediction trick using plastic insects. Although it was great, we all agreed he needed to "work the bugs out of it". Kevin Rhodehouse performed "come fly with me", and finished with the classic Slydini routine Paper Balls to Hat. Wayne Haarhaus was our closer for

the night with some of his always great sponge ball routines. Wayne finished his set by producing a rope from a card box and then proceeding to fool us with a rope around the body puzzle effect and preventing a beer mug from shattering on the floor with the help of Nicole, our youngest junior ring member. The magic didn't stop there, as Bob even somehow managed to make our local diner disappear. When the gang showed up after the meeting, it was closed for renovations...

Kevin Rhodehouse