

Well, it's now January, and like the rest of the country, it's cold. Due to scheduling conflicts, our actual January meeting will actually take place at the end of the month. But, many members and a few guests got together on a Sunday afternoon for a lecture by Michael Finney. Michael flew in from Phoenix to perform at our annual shindig that was held the night before and since his return flight was late in the day, many members re-convened with Michael for a nice afternoon of magical discussion. Mike spoke about starting out in the magic and comedy business and all the hard work that it took him to get to where he is today. Michael is truly an inspirational speaker. He explained how he overcame a genetic birth defect that affected his speech and that with dedication and hard work, anything in this life is possible. Michael also went over Professor's Nightmare routine and his Cut and Restored Rope routine discussing along the way all the little subtleties that evolved over many performances that make the routines what they are today. We did not learn any tricks but we learned an awful lot of information about how to be a good entertainer.

Michael is one of the nicest and most gracious guys you will ever want to meet, in or out of magic. He is extremely approachable and he took the time to pose for pictures and speak individually to anyone who had a question or a comment. Michael does not lecture regularly, but if the opportunity ever arises to spend some time discussing magic and entertaining with Michael, don't pass it up, because you will learn a lot.