

The topic for our November meeting was Uncommon Magic. It seems like we always see card tricks and coin tricks, at least our club does because many of our members are full-time or part-time performers specializing in close-up. Well, this meeting, the goal was to perform with props that we don't normally see around the club. Ah, the best laid plans of mice and men.

The magic actually started off before the meeting as Bill Krupskas and Ziggy were going over a ring-off-rope move that seemed to capture the fancy of many members.

Mike Goldman and Wayne Haarhaus were co-hosts for the evening and Mike introduced Nick Paul. He asked Ziggy to pop in the ear buds and hold his I-phone with the screen facing the ground. He scrolled through Nick's music library on the phone, stopped at an unknown random point and hit play. Ziggy was the only one who could hear the music playing, yet, Nick was able to figure out the song to which Ziggy was listening. He then pantomimed rolling a cigarette and on completion, he was able to exhale some smoke. Pretty good! Mike Goldman and some other members were able to hook up with David Copperfield and Penn Jillette a short while ago and Penn agreed to help out Mike during the show. A playing card was selected and, after a seemingly innocent text message exchange, Penn was able to name the selected card.

Bill White was next up and he performed his version of Needle through Arm. It doesn't get much more uncommon than that! Wayne Haarhaus then showed us a very unusual effect that had a very unusual story and an even more unusual ending (it didn't work) which figures because Wayne, as usual, is an extremely unusual guy. Don Engstrand followed with a number of items that included dealing cards and randomly stopping at a card that matched his prediction, two items using ESP cards, he then added the values of randomly selected cards and the total matched a prediction and then there was Cameron Francis' Annihilation Deck. See what I mean about the best laid plans. But still good magic.

Kevin Rhodehouse then performed John Shyrock's Ring inside a Walnut inside an Egg inside a Lemon. Wayne was back again with a coin item and guess what, same result as before. Well, it's happened to all of us, right? Bob Lusthaus was next and he demonstrated some calculator magic and how to determine the day of the week from the date. Interesting stuff. Bill Krupskas was next and he used some uncommon props. He used jumbo U.S. currency to perform Mike Close's A Visit from Rocco and some scratch-off lotto tickets to demonstrate Powerball 60.

Our next to last performer was Bob Dorian who did a nice any card at any number. He predicted that most audience members would say 37 when asked to think of a two digit odd number between 1 and 50 where both digits were different. He adjusted the parameters and most

people guessed 68. He closed with a Bob Cassidy item where he was able to determine which cards of an entire deck were being held by Josh and Kevin. We were running out of time so Ziggy needed to rush through an item using movie tickets that everybody got right except for me because I was taking notes.

Our annual dinner and show is scheduled for Saturday night January 28, 2012. The show will be headlined by Jay Mattioli, he of America's Got Talent fame. If you are reading this in early January, there is still time to get tickets. And, to everybody out there, Ring 244 wishes you all a Happy and Health New Year!