



the charles howard ring

# VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

Affiliated with the  
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

## 2008 Annual Summer Picnic

Well Hello everyone! It's time again to heat up the BBQ and have some great fun with your Circle friends and Family. Come on down to Queens Park in New Westminster (by the Band Shell) from 1pm—5pm on Sunday August 17th. The VMC will provide hamburgers & Hot Dogs, condiments and beverages for your family (the BBQ will be cooking from 1pm—2:30pm). You can choose to provide your own extras, such as salads, snacks, and your own beverages. Remember to bring your lawn chairs and plenty of sun screen, as the forecast for Sunday is "sunny", "hot", and "loads of fun".

1:00 - heat up the BBQ and we have scheduled a little Balloon Work shop for the kids

2:00 - The Great Canadian Challenge (teams of 2 compete in 6 different events)

3:00 - Magic Wand and magic show, starring our own VMC superstars "You"

4:00 - TV Trivia (Guys vs. the Girls)

5:00 - Wrap Up

Remember Queens Park has a Petting Zoo and a great play area for Kids. Hope to see you & your family there!

### The Magical Minutes

**Newsletter Date:**  
Summer 2008

Do you believe in magic?  
Of fairies wings  
And pixie dust flirting  
Through wonderous scenes  
Of griffins flying  
Through open skies  
Mermaids singing  
A sweet lullabye  
Unicorns running  
Through flames of flowers  
Centaurs racing  
Galloping free  
As hobbits dance  
In the forest green  
Leprechaun's cobbling  
And banshees screams  
Manticors and hippogriffs  
Dwarves and elves  
There's so much more  
Do you believe in magic?  
I hope you do  
For if you dont  
You truly have no imagination  
And shall boringly wait  
Before Deaths door

- Janelle Morehart

Look inside for coverage of the  
2008 PCAM and IBM/SAM  
Conventions.

## September General Meeting—Thurs Sept 25th Annual Auction

The next meeting of IBM RING #92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Thursday September 25th, 2008 at the Sunrise Community Hall in Vancouver. Doors open at 6:30 for socializing and the business meeting will start earlier than normal at 7:00pm. The business meeting will be followed by the annual auction.

Please note that only members in good standing will be given the privilege of bidding and purchasing items.

See you there!



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Brianna Carlson

## June in review.....

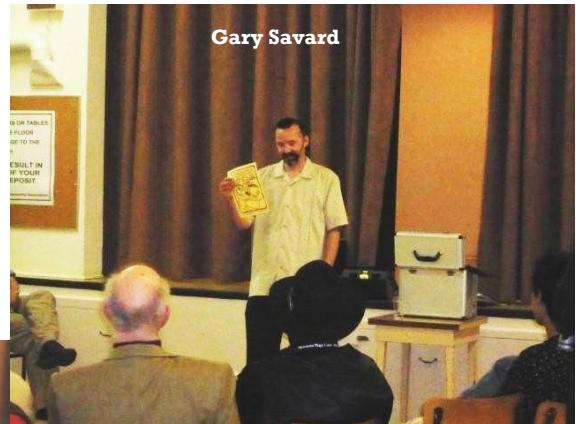
Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

The June General Meeting, on Thursday June 26th, started with a workshop on children's magic (appropriate as our major public competition of the year was our Children's Magician of the Year competition held on Fathers Day). Gary Savard opened with the effects that are appropriate with childrens shows. He also commented on what to say and what not to say (a delicate point nowadays).

Mike Norden (winner of the Children's show on Fathers Day) talked about controlling the audience.



Mike Norden



Gary Savard

Matthew Johnson chatted about advertising for children from his experience.

Brianna Carlson, our clubs newest junior member, made a balloon where \*something went wrong\* but with a surprise ending. She produced an origami bird from nowhere that caught everyone by surprise.

After the business meeting it was socializing time with snacks provided by Neil Kremer. Thanks Neil.

The winner of our 50/50 draw of \$55 was Byrn Williams. Omni Magic also sweetened the pot and Michael Meneth, Errol Lipschitz and Byrn Williams won secondary prizes.

A surprise visit from Lynden Washington was Sterling Dietz and his parents Rich and Rochelle.



Left to Right, Bruce Hunt, Gord Boyes, Sterling Dietz, Denzil Bee, Gary Savard. Guest Sterling Dietz draws the numbers so President Gord Boyes can award some door prizes.

Thanks to John Smithman and Rod Chow, we have some pictures to share. If you take pictures at any meetings or events, be sure to send them to us! (and check out [www.champions.ca\vmc.html](http://www.champions.ca/vmc.html))

## Impromptu Card Magic Night - Thursday June 26

Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

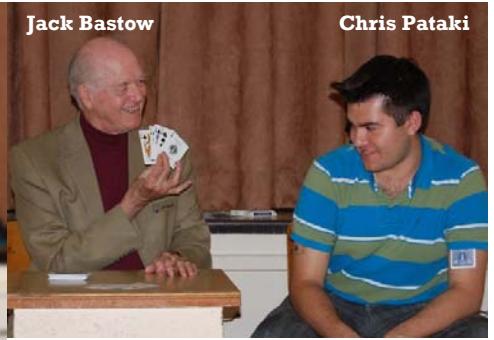


**Henry Tom**

After the socializing portion of the General Meeting on June 26th, it was time for the competition for the Ray Gamble Trophy. This trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in impromptu card magic. The competitor



**Tony Kazoleas**



**Jack Bastow**

**Chris Pataki**

must present a single effect using absolutely nothing except what is supplied (a deck of cards, cellophane removed but seal intact).

Henry Tom opened with a pick a card on an invisible rope. Rabbi Don Pacht did an ambitious card routine, followed by Rod Chow doing a face up face down shuffle to a selected card. Tony Kazoleas made a crucial error and was eliminated. Steve Dickson did a very funny routine called "wack your pack". Veteran Jack Bastow did a gambling routine and Rick Mearns did a pick a card reversed in the desk.

Rick Mearns was the winner with Steve Dickson placing second.



**Don Pacht**



**David Hamil**



**Rick Mearns**



**Rod Chow & Sterling Dietz**



**Steve Dixon**

**Rick Mearns, recipient of the 2008 Ray Gamble Trophy**

## PCAM 2008 Convention Review

Submitted by Rod Chow

Monterey, California (July 10-13, 2008) - "The Gold Medal for Juvenile Stage Magic goes to Nicholas Chow... The Gold Medal for Juvenile Close-Up Magic goes to Jack Chow... The Gold Medal for Comedy Magic goes to Jack and Nicholas Chow... The Gold Medal for Most Novel or Innovative Act goes to Jack and Nicholas Chow... And the Gold Medal for Close-Up Magic goes to Rod Chow." PCAM President and Contest Chair, Kevin Cardona, with the assistance of his daughter, Claire, presented an amazing total of 5 Gold Medals to the Chow's, which represented a clean sweep for the Magical Chow family. The Chow's in the PCAM 2008 general contests, held in Monterey, California, wowed the audience and judges with 4 different acts: Nicholas - "A Magical Celebration"; Jack - "Magical Mysteries"; Jack & Nicholas - "King Tut" with David Wilson as the adventurous volunteer; and Rod - "MoneyMagic!" Congratulations Chow family!!



Nicholas, Rod & Jack Chow  
5 Gold Medals!!

In one of the best Pacific Rim Pro-Challenges in recent history, Trevor Watters and Lorena presented a very entertaining, stunning and up-beat illusion act to take the Bronze medal in this People's Choice professional stage contest. Keeping the show tightly to-

Hewson; David and Cheryl Wilson; Dave, Cathie & Trevor Watters and Lorena Paredon; Bruce Hunt (who put in admirable performances in both the Comedy competitions and Bag-O-Tricks) & Georgina Hunt; Shawn, Lori, Barb & Hannah Farquhar; Dennis Chan; and Rod, Sylvia, Jack and Nicholas Chow.

Opening evening got off to a fun start with the S.A.M. #95 "One Hand Cut-A-Thon" hosted by Brian Cooke. Rod Chow, who first originated this challenge with S.A.M. #95 to do the most Charlier Cuts in a set period of time at PCAM 1993, came in at a close second in the finals. After this, Shawn Farquhar, presented his well thought out trivia type game

gether was MC, Shawn Farquhar who did a solid job of introducing each act as well as superbly conducting live contestant interviews immediately following each performance. The live interview feature is a brand new addition to the contest thought up by Shawn to give the audience a personal view of each contestant by asking questions such as how the contestant got started in magic and what are his future plans. After intermission, and while the judges were counting the ballots, Shawn performed his signature "Shape of My Heart" giant screen card act to put an incredible close to this outstanding evening of professional stage magic.

Now on to the rest of this wonderful little convention, which sold out at just over 200 registrants. Representing the VMC were: Dennis & Melody

"Who wants to be a Millionaire" utilizing very appropriate questions from PCAM and magic history. After going through a number of contestants, PCAM headliner, Tony Clark, emerged victorious.

The Portola Hotel and Spa, although a bit pricey, turned out to be well worth the extra expense, due to its terrific location right next to Fisherman's Wharf. This was a great place to visit as it was really bustling with lots of tourists, great restaurants, loads of souvenir shops and free clam chowder! Yes, we could walk back and forth and get full on all the free samples of Monterey clam chowder that the vari-

Vancouver  
Magic Circle  
members  
continue to  
play critical  
roles to make  
PCAM work.



David Watters, Lorena Paredon,  
Trevor Watters, Cathie Watters

## PCAM 2008 Convention Review- continued....



Shawn Farquhar working the wharf.



Shawn Farquhar & David Wilson — Bag-O-Tricks

ous restaurants were handing out. This was also the location of the Street Magic event where we enjoyed watching Shawn wowing the crowd with his high energy tricks. Fisherman's Wharf also spawned the "Monterey Hookers" which can be best described as "Wives gone Wild" - see photo for a peep!

The evening shows were held at the Golden State Theatre which was two short blocks away. This is a very ornate theatre with good sight lines where we enjoyed two incredible shows: the PCAM Pro-Challenge (as earlier mentioned), and the Stars of Magic Gala Show which featured Danny Cole, Ice MacDonald, Reed McClintock

and Tony Clark.

Shawn presented his FISM award winning solid cups and balls and signed card to sealed deck during the premier close-up show to rousing response.

Shawn Farquhar and David Wilson closed the convention, up to their usual sober (?) antics, as hosts of their "Bag-O-Tricks" contest, a fun event which they created and organize for each PCAM.



The "Monterey Hookers"

This convention looks like it was awesome!

Better start looking at next years scheduled convention on a cruise ship!!

Stellar talent, fantastic contests, excellent lectures, well-stocked dealers, a great location, renewed friendships and Kevin Cardona (who was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by Shawn Farquhar) super hospitality which included free gifts, food and drinks, means I give this convention a two thumbtips up!!

Check out [www.magic4us.com](http://www.magic4us.com) for tons of pictures from the convention.

## IBM/SAM Review

July 21-26th, 2008 will forever be a time engrained in my memory. This was my first IBM or SAM National Conventions - and I was getting to go to the first Combined convention in 30 years! With almost 2000 registered guests, this was the largest magic convention ever held in North America, beating the previous record of the SAM Centennial in 2002 of over 1400 magicians. Man, was I looking forward to this!

My overall review of this monumental event is positive - we will save the low points until the end. After leaving Vancouver and taking 12 hours to get to Louisville, KY my wife, Nicole, and I were beat. We got in at 1:30am so it was straight to bed. Who knew that there are no such things as direct flights to Louisville!

Monday the 21st was registration time and that opened at 8am. I think I managed to register about 9am. I must say, it ran as smooth as butter. Got a wonderful package and a great 'gift' - we were to get a gift every day of the convention. The first was a classy magic kit that was filled with over \$50 of cool stuff. Looking pretty good so far.

In the essence of space I will reduce what happens each day to a few paragraphs. Each day consisted of at least one lecture, and an evening show. You also had the stage and close-up competitions held each day. You were watching about 10-15 acts each time and by the end of the week you would have watched over 160 act compete for over \$50,000 in prizes! To say the least you might even get sick of magic - and yes, I watched every single one. (My wife watched almost all of them too!)



So Monday was a Welcome Show starring Mac King and others. Followed by a lecture by Jim Steinmeyer. Some close up competitions at 7:30pm and then spend some time in the dealer room. Now I did expect more of a dealer room, but with over 50 dealers it was the largest I have ever seen. Shawn Farquhar has seen bigger and better, or so he says...

Did I mention that my fellow Ring 92ers were Rod Chow, Murray Hatfield and Shawn Farquhar? And that Shawn competed in the Close-up and Stage? And Rod in the close up? (I was just there to



take pictures I guess...) And that Shawn was on of the finalist in the close up? Well, he might not have won but we are sure he came a close second in our opinion and he secured about a dozen contracts for magic conventions and the likes - so we are pretty sure he came out a winner!

Back to the itinerary! Tuesday held a special meeting for spouses. Louisville has a great history and was a lovely city that was clean and vibrant with lots for the tourists. My wife and I hit the Louisville Slugger factory and she went to the Churchill Downs, where the Derby is held. We ate at some great restaurants and saw some great sights. Because of this I missed the David Ben lecture but

we hit the gala show at 8pm with Stan Allen, Danny Cole, Michael Finney, Arden James, Dale Salwak, and more! This was one of the best

shows of the week - other than the competing acts...I will explain what I mean by that in a minute.



Louisville Slugger Factory

Wednesday was a great lecture called "The Business of being Funny" with a panel of magicians being interviewed by Stan Allen. The magicians were Mac King (did you know he was from Louisville? - and so is Lance Burton?), Michael Finney, and David Williamson! Now with those 3 up on a stage you would think all hell would break loose. While it was funny it was more educational - kinda like a lecture should be....but I was hoping more to see some chaos happen. Perhaps the lecture by David at Kramien's with Jesse Boyes assisting still sticks in my head...

Wednesday was our night (people were color coded according to badges) to attend the Banquet. Very fancy - we had steak and lobster and the food was indeed fabulous. The cocktail hour was a little cramped though and we had a mad dash when the doors opened and we got stuck at a table with no one we knew. Turns out we had one of the editors from the Linking Ring - and some other guy by the name of Bev Burgeron. Some legend who was a clown called 'Rebo' on an old TV show called Magicland or something. he went on for hours with old stories of famous people and magicians...just dinner with Bev. Nothing much else happened that night. (Editor note: see sarcasm)

## IBM/SAM Review — continued....

Thursday was a David Williamson lecture at 10am. And entertaining as usual - it was a lecture on impromptu magic, so he did an impromptu lecture. In other words he did not prepare anything. But jokes aside, what he did demonstrate was taking the free gift magic kit from the convention and filming going out to the streets of Louisville the day before and doing the tricks right out from the box. Now that was one funny video!

At 6pm we attended the 'East meets West' close up gala. This was one of my wife's favourite shows and she practically liked Rick Merrill! Sorry Shawn...

Friday saw a Lecture by Derek Lever on the 'Greatest Magic Inventors" followed by David Kaye (aka Silly Billy) doing one on 'The First Century of Children's Magic". The later was fun to watch and being a children's entertainer myself I found it pretty amusing. Especially seeing how David handles that adorable Hannah Farquhar as a helper on stage!

8pm brought us to the International Gala Show with John Archer, Wayne Dobson, Sos & Victoria, Topas and more. Not bad, but I must admit that this show left me wanting more. The quick change act by Sos & Victoria was amazing! Then a late night lecture by Mike Caveny on 'Willard the Wizard" - fascinating and I bought the book and got it signed. I will review it in a future column for the club!



Ali Bongo & Mike Norden

Well - it was Saturday before you knew it! This started with a Wayne Dobson lecture, but I did not attend. After the partying with Rod Chow at the local club I was not feeling like getting up all that early. Right Rod? And don't worry - I won't tell Silvia - you party animal you!



The fellas out for a soda.

We then had the close up finals at 11am (yay Shawn!) and then a lecture by Eberhard Riese on 'The Evolution of an Act". They had a female magician perform a great set and then critiqued in - a positive and constructive light - to improve the act. I found it very entertaining and rewarding to watch this happen and I was glad I caught it.

At 8pm we watched the stage competition finals - and this is where the complaint comes in. This was the BEST show of the convention. The acts that were competing were BETTER than the paid acts for the evening shows. For the 'Convention of the Century' I expected David Copperfield, John Calvert, Penn & Teller, or at least Louisville hometown boy Lance Burton to make an appearance - at least by video!

The average cost paid was \$400 for the convention - do the math with 2000 registrants and you wonder if it was 'All About the Magic' or about something else? The camera work in the theatre was atrocious and quite simply was unacceptable. While my wife appreciated the down time - even for her it felt like they

were stretching the convention an extra few days, without providing any extra events. I wish there had been a few more big names in the gala shows, and a few more lectures. But enough nitpicking - it was a great convention that I was proud to attend! It was the smoothest ran one I have been too - and they ended it with pure elegance in my opinion doing



Dealers Room

a great awards show and farewell party. My hats go off to both organizations on a job well done! I look forward to another combined convention (there is talk about 2013) and I hope they listen to the improvements that can be made. If they have it - I will go! I hope you will join us!



Rod Chow, Nicole Norden, Mike Norden, Shawn Farquhar, Lori Farquhar

You know you might be a magician if your handwriting is better with a Swami gimmick than it is with a real pen—Lee Darrow

## Sponsor Spotlight

### Morrissey Magic

In 1959 Herb Morrissey started a very small magic business. So small in fact that they only had one product. 'Morrissey Cups' - manufactured in Canada, available in aluminum and copper. The magic world quickly recognized that 'Morrissey Cups' were good quality cups



and reasonably priced - it was value for your dollar. Now, 44 years later, Canada's largest magic dealer is located at 2477 Dufferin Street in Toronto. Their modern magic studio has 3000 square feet of retail space to service magicians from all over the world. And they are still supplying magicians and magic dealers with metal spun products. Today MORRISSEY

MAGIC is truly an international magic company. Known and respected throughout the magic world. Visit them at [www.morrisseymagic.com](http://www.morrisseymagic.com) and tell Richard the Vancouver Magic Circle sent you! We encourage you to patronize our sponsors, as without the help of our friends like Morrissey Magic our website would not be what it is today.

## Presidents Message

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful summer. Some people have been fortunate enough to attend the PCAM and/or the IBM/SAM conventions, but if you're like me you miss the camaraderie and fun of getting together as a club, even if you do get together in smaller groups. The good news is that we have lots of exciting events planned in the next couple of months. Check out the last page of the newsletter for coming events and I really hope to see a great turnout for our summer picnic on Sunday August 17th at Queens Park in New Westminster.

September has a great lecture, followed by the Lynnwood Clubs Day 'O Magic, and finished off with our annual General Meeting auction. See you soon!!

## Looking for Talent

Dear VMC,

I am in charge of booking talent and Stage Manager of our Evening of magic show happening in late October. Calgary Ring 66 is looking for two talented magicians, who can WOW and please an audience of people made up of people of all ages, from the general Public.

The first person must be Funny, and very pleasing to a large audience in a large theatre setting as they will be MCing the entire 1:30 minute show.

The second person must be strong enough as an entertainer to be the Headliner Act that will close our Evening of Magic.

This all happens in Late October. If you know someone who is interested please send a dvd, tape, email, youtube video, smoke signals to me so I can start the screening process and pick the winners.

As of June 27/08 we are not committed to anyone and still are looking locally for Magicians here to fulfill these jobs but We had an executive meeting last night and decided to see what kind of outside talent would be interested in being a part in our show.

Please send staging requirements, fee, and brief outline of your show as well as some sort of video footage of your show to "BrentSmith14@shaw.ca". GOOD LUCK!!

Regards,

Brent Smith

## Talent Already Found

Jack Chow & cousin Juliana Chow have been accepted as Semi-Finalists in the Red Robinson's Talent Showdown at the PNE. Their performance will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2008 between 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the Rogers Amphitheater at the PNE.



Please come support these awesome junior performers if you're able, and let them know how proud our club is of them.

# NIGHT O' MAGIC

An Evening of Mystery with Stars of Magic

Featuring the Talents of

## Eric Buss

## Reed McClintock

## Michael Vincent

& Your Emcee

## Master Payne

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH  
EVERETT HISTORIC THEATER**

2911 Colby Avenue

Adults \$15.00 Children under 12 \$10.00

## Showtime 7:00 p.m.

Presented by the Lynnwood "Ring of Fire" Magic Club



**Thursday Sept 26th**  
 VMC General Meeting and  
 Annual Auction.

**September 13th, 2008**

**Lynnwood Ring of Fire presents**

**DAY OF MAGIC 7**

Featuring Eric Buss at the fabulous Everett Historical Theater.  
 Don't miss the 2 big lectures, a swap meet, the anything goes con-  
 test, the gala evening show,  
 and much MUCH more!

Dealer tables available for \$10. Email Evan West  
 ([evanwestmagic@gmail.com](mailto:evanwestmagic@gmail.com)) to reserve a table.

## Sunday August 17th

IBM Ring #92  
 The Vancouver Magic Circle  
 Annual Summer Picnic  
 Queens Park in New Westminster,  
 next to the bandshell.  
 Contact David Watters for more info.

## PCAM 2009

PCAM 2009 will be held on a cruise  
 ship, the Norwegian Pearl, departing  
 the port of Vancouver on Monday Sep-  
 tember 21st, disembarking in Los An-  
 geles on Saturday September 26th.

Don't miss it!!

Check [www.magicatsea.com](http://www.magicatsea.com) for info.

## Michael Vincent



**Our next guest lecturer is Michael Vincent in September 2008.**

Michael Vincent is one the few magicians in the world who is an 'ambassador' for Slydini's concepts. Michael spent his early years mastering all of Slydini's magic. He will be the first to tell you, "I don't perform any of Slydini's routines any more, except for the Pins, The Coins, and The Knotted Silks, but what I do make use of are the powerful concepts which turns a great trick into a powerful experience of Magic".

This session will be an interactive workshop where you will experience the real power of "Audience Attention Control" or "Mis-direction". Here, Michael will expose you to concepts, which can elevate and unleash the real power of your magic.

**Disclaimer**—These Magical Minutes have been brought to you on a tight deadline with little resources. The author(s) accept no responsibility for typos, spelling errors, grammatical errors, accuracy of fact (or lack of), omission of details, layout, graphics, political correctness, oversight of individuals or groups or groups of individuals who may or may not have contributed to the creation process or the creative inspiration of others. No animals were harmed in the creation of this newsletter.

THE NORTHWEST RING OF FIRE PRESENTS  
**DAY O' MAGIC 7**  
FEATURING THE MAGICAL TALENTS OF  
  
**REED McCLINTOCK**  


**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2008**  
AT THE FABULOUS EVERETT HISTORICAL THEATRE  
2911 COLBY AVENUE EVERETT,

**DON'T MISS THE**

**2 Big Lectures**

**A Swap Meet**

**THE ANYTHING GOES CONTEST**

**THE GALA EVENING SHOW**

**And Much, MUCH More!**

**\$45.00 ADULT**

**\$30.00 UNDER 18**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9:30 EVENING SHOW 7:00**

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UP TO DATE  
INFORMATION?**

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Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Make Checks Payable to:

Total Amount Included: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ US Funds Northwest Ring of Fire