

# August



## OCMC Events August

**At the Downtown Anaheim Community Center**

**Meeting: Wednesday, August 09<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Stage Competition: Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**250 E Center St, Anaheim, CA 92805**

Doors open at 6:30 for Meet & Greet  
Meeting starts at **7:00**

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### **Officers:**

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## July's Lectures

In July, we had two mini-lectures; Jason Burke presented a lecture on sponge ball magic. Jason gave us a history of the evolution of sponge ball magic from it's inception to it popularity today.



Jason talks about the versatility of Sponge Ball Magic.

After a short break, Robert Gonzales gave a lecture on card magic. Robert concentrated on just a few card sleights and demonstrated their use in several tricks.



Robert taught us some simple utility moves with cards.



A pair of red stage curtains with a scalloped valance at the top, framing the central text.

## August Stage Competition

Stage Competition 7:00 pm.  
Open to the public (Large Room)

Hope to see you Wednesday  
30-August 7:00

**If you have an act now, let us know. 1<sup>st</sup> 3 winners of  
the Stage Competition have first offer to be in Stage  
Show for the Public.**

After the lectures, there was time for Show and Tell.













**Just a reminder, 2023 dues are now due.**

**You can pay dues on the OCMC Club website:**

**[TheOCMC.com](http://TheOCMC.com)**

**Select the Join or Renew Membership tab.**

**You can also pay Phil directly at the next meeting.**

**Meanwhile, as Phil says, Keep Calm and Pay Your Dues!**

**Cash, Check, or Credit Cards accepted.**





## 2023 OCMC Schedule



August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Show and Tell and Magic Jam
August 30	Stage Competition 7:00 pm. Open to the public (Large Room)
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mini-Lecture w/Brettso the Great (show flow) and Workshop w/Western Palacios (Daryl's rope & ring magic)
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Rehearsal & Critique for November Show (Those scheduled to perform in November will perform their act and receive feedback to polish their acts.)
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Magic Show <b>Friday</b> \$10 adults and \$5 children 12, 7:00 pm (Large Room))
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Show and Tell and Magic Jam
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Potluck & Mini-Show

The OCMC newsletter will regularly feature articles on magic written by Member George Reis.

This is the 7th of a series of articles in which George will share his thoughts on learning magic. He would love your feedback, so please feel free to email him to share your thoughts and ideas.



On Learning Magic  
George Reis  
[reis@imagingforensics.com](mailto:reis@imagingforensics.com)

Be Prepared. It's the Boy Scout motto. It's also good advice.

There are several things we can do to be prepared for performing – whether for friends, family, our show and tell at the magic club, an open mic, or a paid gig. A key one is practice.

How much did you practice?

I've mentioned both practice and focus in past essays. Over time I've come to realize that when I watch others perform, I'm pretty sure I can tell who practiced and who didn't.

About a year ago I went to a little jam session with a few other magicians. I went there unprepared. Before I left my house, I was only a bit concerned about my lack of preparation – after all, isn't the purpose of a jam to practice and get feedback? I figured that I'd

explain that I was working on something new and that I could use some feedback.

Well, the trick I was working on was so far in its infancy that I couldn't do enough to get any feedback other than to realize that I needed to work on everything really hard so that people had an idea of where I needed help. There weren't small bumps to smooth out, there were Everest-sized mountains that I needed to bulldoze.

Well, the next month I was unprepared again! I didn't learn the lesson that I thought I did. I knew the value of practice; I knew specific methods of practice; I knew that I wouldn't get better if I didn't practice. But, I found excuses not to practice, and made a bit of a fool of myself by not practicing. I attempted the first part of the trick, realized that I was unprepared, and put my stuff away, apologizing for my lack of preparation.

That night, I wasn't the only one who came unprepared. Another magician obviously hadn't practiced. After his trick failed, he insisted on trying it again, and again. It didn't get better. One might say it just got worse, because he didn't ask for help, he didn't try to improve – he just seemed to want to show that he could figure out what he was doing wrong. The thing he was doing wrong was obvious. It was the same thing I had done wrong. He didn't practice. He didn't do something well enough to get feedback, and he didn't approach the jam with an attitude that enabled anyone to help.

The other magicians had prepared. They performed their tricks well. We had discussions about the tricks they did, about technique, presentation, the effect, and variations. I think we may have discussed various magicians' presentations of the same tricks.

The contrast I saw that night was stark. Two of us came and wasted everyone's time because we hadn't practiced enough to get out of the gate. The others came prepared, presented good magic, and provided us all with something to discuss. I decided that night that I would never perform for anyone – not my family, not at a friendly jam, not at a club meeting, unless I had practiced.



The above example isn't about a jam – it's about being prepared. The same goes for the trick that we show to our spouse, our kids and their friends, at a volunteer event, etc. One reason is because we want to improve. The other is because we may be the only magician that people see perform live. There is a saying that people don't see a bad musician and then say that they don't like music, but if they see a bad magician, they may decide that they don't like magic.

The lesson I learned is that it's easy to look around and see who prepared and who didn't. We can each choose which group we want to be in. For me, I'll choose to be in the prepared group. I'll practice before going to a jam, presenting something at a meeting, or even showing something to a group of friends.

I can think of two objections to my suggestions: 1) maybe you are just having fun with magic and not pursuing a career; or 2) maybe you think that meetings, jams, and casual performances are for learning, not being perfect – so it's okay to struggle through your routine.

As to the first – Isn't it more fun to show friends, family, etc. good magic? I don't want my wife to tell her friends, "George is learning magic, but he isn't very good. I don't think he practices enough." Instead, I want her to say, "Even though George is new to magic, he does tricks that amaze me. I can't wait for you to see him to some!"

As to the second – meetings and jams are places to see what works and to get help and advice. But how much advice do you think people want to give someone who doesn't come prepared? Sure, try out the new things you're working on, but put time into it on your own first.

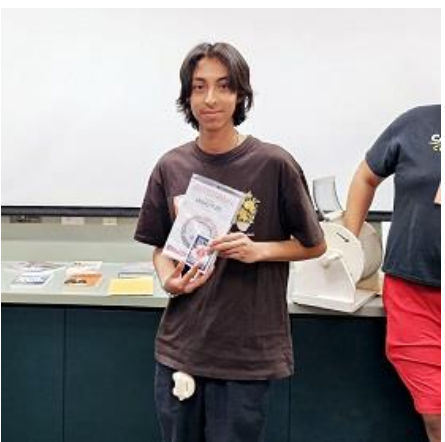
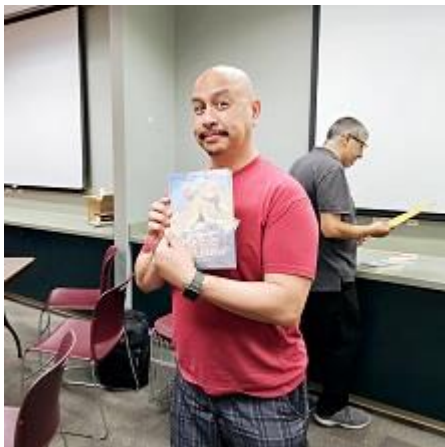
So, let's remember that simple Boy Scout Motto – Be Prepared – It's only two words, but it's truly great advice for everything we do.

Please share your ideas and feedback with me regarding these articles. I'm learning as I go along, and your input will be valuable to me as I prepare future article.

# Raffle



**Raffle**  
**Thanks to all who**  
**participated!**  
**All proceeds go to**  
**our club.**





## **Other Events in the Area:**

For more Ring96 information, visit their website  
at [www.Ring96.com](http://www.Ring96.com)

Quote:

**"What we know is a drop, what we don't know is an  
ocean."**

**— Sir Isaac Newton —**