The Wild Card routine is the focus of our newsletter this month. On page three Jim Peterson gives the history of the trick and those who developed it and revised it along the way. On page four and five the handling is explained with text and illustrations. We will also cover the handling and presentation at our close up class on meeting night. This effect truly deserves the attention that we decided to give it. It not only familiarizes you with the effect but you’ll also learn the Hamman Count that can be used in other effects. Bring a deck of cards or if you’re lazy just bring nine cards. Five of one color and four of the other color.

Many things to bring to your attention this month.

- **March 9th.** Walk around magic at Kobernick House. All magicians are welcome. Further information at monthly meeting.
- **March 30th.** Van Wezel Family Day. Great venue to interact with visitors to perform magic.
- Our members, Josh Corn and Ilan are once again teaching magic at their Camp Cigma. Great way for youngsters to get started. See page 5.
- The club needs some officers to fill out the slate. It’s time to step up and realize that IT IS YOUR CLUB. Sitting on your hands causes atrophy.

If you have not paid your dues for 2008 you’re almost out of time. The bi-laws provide a penalty if dues are not paid in a timely manner. Avoid the hassle and the extra work required by our officers in order to enforce our rules and be fair to other members.
Magical Reminiscing on page 3 of this newsletter discusses Wild Card. A packet trick performed by many with various ways to accomplish it’s end. This will be the subject of our close up class this evening. The trick will be demonstrated and explained. If possible we will show a DVD of an actual performance.

If you happen to have it stashed away in the closet this is the time to dig it out and bring it. If you are proficient in the trick perhaps you’ll show us your method.

March 9th.
Ring 81 committed to do walk around at Kobernick House. Their event is an all day affair (10-5). Any time you can spare would be appreciated. Contact Joe Floersheimer at 359-9390 or joe.shoes@verizon.net for additional information if needed. Additional information will also be given at our meeting on March 6th.

March 30th
Once again Ring 81 has been invited to perform at the Van Wezel Family Day. Mark your calendars and come out to do some magic.

I want to thank Wes Meltzer and Bob Banta for the amazing job they did getting a New Youth Magic Group off the ground. Thanks to the efforts of all of the Ring 81 Magicians who volunteered their time to entertain the crowds at the Sarasota Arts Festival, Wes and Bob were able to work their magic and get more than a dozen youths to come join us for the February meeting. They had their own Youth table and Wes and Bob gave the kids a great introduction to the Club. I want to personally welcome all of the kids to and learn about magic and the IBM. The Club welcomed two new youth members, Donald Carlson and Cameron Cruce.

We are also honored and privileged to have IBM Executive Committee Member John DeStefano join us as a member of Ring 81. John has recently moved to the area from Ohio and his participation is bound to have positive impact on our Club. He has some wonderful ideas for bringing a higher level of magic to the Sarasota Community.

I hope everyone involved enjoyed the Magic Jam Session last month. It was more of a social evening than anything else, but I think we need one of those every now and then to help build and strengthen our friendships and fellowships. I enjoyed learning and just talking with you all.

Finally, I want to ask that anyone interested in serving on the Board contact me or Jim Levell. Due to Bud Hedger’s recent resignation for personal reasons, we now have two spots open on the Board. We are looking for a Secretary and a Treasurer. Please call us if you have any questions about these positions or want to explore the possibility of getting involved.

Thank you all for the amazing support and friendship I have received thus far, please feel free to call me at any time. 941-256-5932.
MAGICAL REMINISCING
With Jim Peterson

MAGICIAL REMINISCING

WILD CARD
The effect is truly bewildering

When did the Wild Card effect begin? How did it evolve?

Historians agree that it began with Brother John Hamman. His "The Mystic Nine" is a precursor to Peter Kane's ground breaking Wild Card. It was published in "The Card Magic of Bro. John Hamman. (1958)

This routine with ten ungaffed cards introduced the Hamman Count to the magic fraternity and caught Peter Kane's eye. He found part of "The Mystic Nine" to his liking, but decided to change the presentation.

The result was Kane's "Watch The Ace" which was published in Hugard's Magic Monthly (Volume XIX, Number 8: April 1962). This approach and handling was devised sometime between 1958 and 1962. Eventually it was given to Gus Southall, who submitted it to Jean Hugard.

Kane used the Hamman Count, added double-face cards, and introduced the Wild Card concept. This was about forty-eight years ago. But who's counting.


Bill Simon showed Kane's effect to Frank Garcia, who saw its applicability to his own professional work. Garcia performed Wild Card during his gambling act and shortly thereafter, Garcia gave his handling to Lou Tannen, who marketed it under Garcia's name. It became a best-seller and was awarded a plaque of merit by the Magic Dealer's Association (MDA) in 1963.

Since then, Wild Card has achieved cult-status and dozens of versions have been published and sold. It's now a Classic effect.

Re: The Wild Card Kit
The Secrets of Brother John Hamman
Kabbala Vol. 3 No. 3

John Racherbaumer
John Hamman Richard Kaufman

Brother John Hamman
Trick of the Month.

In keeping with this month's theme, this space will be used to explain the Hamman Count that is the slight required for the Wild Card effect.

HAMMAN COUNT

Brother John Hamman

The basic use to which the “Hamman Count” is most frequently applied, is to switch one packet of cards for another during the action of counting them. This count will be used for the “Wild Card” effect with the intention of showing eight Fives of Hearts and one Joker prior to changing all the cards to Jokers.

(any other group of cards may be used).

To accomplish this, the cards must be arranged as shown in Fig. 1

In the “Wild Card” effect, the four five of Hearts at the face of the spread would be double faced cards backed up with Jokers.

To Perform:

1. Hold the packet of nine cards, squared in the right hand as in Fig. 2.
2. With the left thumb, pull the Five from the face of the packet off onto the left fingers to the position shown in Fig. 3. The outer left corner of the card should rest on the inner joint of the left first finger. The left thumb holds the card in position by the outer left corner. This position is very important in an action that recurs later in the count.
3. Using identical hand actions pull three more cards one at a time onto the first card so that each lines up with the first card. At this point the left hand will be holding four cards which the spectators have seen are Five of Hearts. The right hand contains five Jokers.

From this point onward in the count, the objective is to count only one Joker and then to count four more Five of Hearts. This is done by switching the packets from hand to hand as the count continues.
4. Again the left hand approaches the right hand so the left thumb can apparently count off another card. As it does, however the left hand moves a bit further than it did previously, but only a quarter inch or so further.

Continued on Page 7

If you change your e-mail address or subscribe to a new one, please notify the club secretary. We communicate with the majority of our members this way and want to make sure that you’re not left out of the electronic loop.
Greetings!

Discover the magic that is Camp Cigma and provide your child with a truly unique experience this summer. If you’ve been thinking about registering your child in our program, now is the time to do so. Early registration discounts are available up until March 1st, 2008. If you have questions about our program go ahead and peruse through our website to learn all about us. Another great way to get a feel for camp is by coming out to one of the many magic shows open to the public around town. Here you can meet the Director of Imagination Development and see some of the tricks he teaches at camp.

Also, starting at the end of February, Camp Cigma Director Ilan will be offering two workshops: Beginning Magic & Magic with Cards. Classes will be held at the NY night club setting of the East Village Cabaret. Learn from Ilan’s 16 years of training and experience in performing magic. Gain insights into the way magicians think and view reality. Learn a practical skill that can be used for the most noble of purposes - putting a smile on someone’s face.

Thank you for your continued support and help in getting the word out about Camp Cigma. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events and look forward to speaking with you afterwards.

Sincerely,

Lydia Corn
Engineer of Dreams

Josh Corn
Director of Possibilities

Ilan
Director of Imagination Development

Early Registration!

Do Not Miss Out on the early registration discount. Available only until March 1st, 2008.

ONLY AT CAMP CIGMA!
Adult Magic Workshops at
The East Village Cabaret
6265 Lake Osprey Drive
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34240

Magic Workshops

(Classes taught by professional magician and author on magic - Ilan)

Dates
Classes are held each Monday:
February 25th - March 24th
(no class on March 17th)

Times
Beginning Magic: 6pm - 7:15pm
Cards: 7:30pm - 8:45pm

Price: $175 / 4 week workshop
(includes supplies)
Our member, Dorothy Wolfgang has provided Ring 81 with an award winning web site. There you will find information not only covering Ring 81 but other sites pertaining to magic. Meeting notices, list of officers and copies of present and past newsletters can be found here. There is also a members only section which is available to members and requires a username with a password. Required is a one time registration with your e-mail address and a password which will be given to you at the time of registration. Send an e-mail to Dorothy at: tapakey1@verizon.net if you wish to gain access or if you change your e-mail address.

Our Vice President and Librarian, Jim Levell has created a wonderful library of magic items for use by the members. Not an easy task to bring books and tapes to the monthly meeting for distribution, but he does it. The rules are very simple. In order to avail yourself of any of the items you must contribute something to the library. This could be a book, a tape or a DVD. If you do not have any items to donate you may pay a one time fee of $10 and get the same privileges as those who added to the collection. Books do not have to be new but we cannot take copied tapes or DVDs due to copyright restrictions.

Things to consider

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright, until you hear them speak.

Why do doctors leave the room when you change? They’re going to see you naked anyway.

Why do they call it an Asteroid when it’s outside the hemisphere, but call it a hemorrhoid when it’s in your butt?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
At this point, the two packets of cards are as shown in Fig. 4 with the upper Joker packet slightly overlapping the lower packet toward the left. In Fig. 4, the left thumb has been moved out of position to show the packet position. In actual performance the hands would appear as in Fig. 5.

5. Now by a slight shift of the left thumb, the extreme outer left corner of the upper packet of cards, the Jokers, is gripped between the ball of the left thumb and the fleshy pad at the base of the left first finger. Simultaneously the right third finger shifts its grip to the outer right corner of the lower packet. The hands then separate in a normal counting motion. The position of the packets is shown in "stop motion" in Fig. 6. Due to the switch of packets, the right hand will now contain the four Fives of Hearts and the five Jokers will be in the left hand.

6. With a similar counting motion count the remaining four cards one at a time from the right hand into the left hand. If properly done, the spectators will have seen eight Five of Hearts and only one Joker.

**Note:**
As with most counts that involve secret moves, the “Hamman Count” is most deceptive if the count proceeds without any changes in tempo. The switch of the packets described in Step 4 and 5 should be done at the same tempo as single cards are counted into the left hand. Some practice is required to accomplish the required smoothness of action, but unless the action is smooth, the count is not deceptive.

*Compiled from Counts Cuts Moves and Subtlety by Jerry Mentzer*

BRO. JOHN C. HAMMAN, S.M., a Marianist Brother for 56 years died at the St. Joseph Healthcare Center in San Antonio, Texas, on Tuesday, December 5, 2000. He was 73 years old. Prior to his retirement in 1995, Bro. John had taught at St. John Vianney High School for over 20 years. Bro. John became world renowned in the realm of magic, an interest and skill he had been developing from his youth. He spent hours during his recuperation from polio learning, practicing and inventing card tricks and other magic involving slight of hand. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians.
Arnieism of the Month
Arniebaby-------who wants you to know that------
Women like silent men--------
they think they are listening-------

Want More Magic?
A group of Ring 81 members meet every Tuesday from 7 to 9 pm at Bennigans Sarasota, Bahia Vista and Rte. 41. It's a nice informal atmosphere in which to share and compare your latest effects with some of your fellow club members.

http://www.precisionmagic.com/demos.htm

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"Look, just because I work for you, doesn't mean that I like you sir."