



The Servante

Official Newsletter of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists

Volume 2025 - Number 12 - December 2025
Monthly Club Meeting - Thursday December 18, 2025 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

The Thursday December 18 Monthly Club Meeting of the Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists will be the club's annual Christmas Party.

Magicians who wish to participate are asked to bring a new or gently used magic item of at least \$20-\$25 value for a gift exchange. ***We also ask that club members bring a pot luck dish to augment the party.*** The club will provide a smoked ham, soft drinks, and bottled water. Also the evening will be officer elections for the 2026 club year. Entertainment for the event will be none other than the incredible magic of Jeff Martin!

Please note that the Executive Committee will meet at 6:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse immediately prior to the monthly club meeting. All officers should be in attendance and all members in good standing (2024 dues-paid-up members) may attend as well. Visitors may not attend Executive Committee Meetings. The Illusion Warehouse is conveniently located at 3917 McCart Avenue, about three blocks north of Seminary Drive. If needed, additional parking is located across the street in the school parking lot.



ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

Annual dues for club members are due and payable in full before January 1, 2026. Members pay their dues online. Click the "Dues" tab of our www.SAM138.com website. Members have the option to be a member of the national SAM organization, which gives them membership in both the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists, or individuals can join just the Alliance of Illusionists without national SAM membership. Either way the dues are just \$25 per person per year. Please note that the Assembly no longer collects national SAM dues from Assembly 138 members. SAM members in our Assembly are fully responsible for paying their own national dues direct to the SAM as the national SAM office sends statements.

2026 OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED



The 2025 Executive Committee proposes the following slate of officers to serve for the 2026 club year. Hare Evison for President, Gary Poe for Vice President, Bruce Chadwick for Secretary, Lonnie Olander for Treasurer, William Weebo Beaty for Sergeant at Arms, Jack McCoy for Historian, and Caleb Westeen for Member at Large. Club members may nominate additional members for the offices at the December Clubs Meeting. The Clubs will then close nominations at the meeting and have the election. Officers will be installed at the third Thursday January 15, 2026 Installation Banquet.

MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER SWAP MEET

The November 20, 2025 Monthly Club Meeting of the Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists featured the club's annual Swap Meet. Club members and guests brought a wide array of new and gently used magic tricks and books to sell and trade. There was no cost to sell or attend the meeting. On a first-come basis, the tables in the Illusion Warehouse party room were used free of charge, while other sellers brought folding tables as per their personal preferences. Also most of the club members brought finger foods to make each of us fit and trim! As usual, the meeting started promptly at 7:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop, 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth. The meeting was well attended.



MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Gary Poe called to order the November 20, 2025, Executive Committee meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists at about 6:06 pm in the Illusion Warehouse museum room. A quorum of officers were in attendance including President Gary Poe, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Lonnie Olander, Sergeant at Arms Jack McCoy, Historian Hare Evison, and Member at Large William Weebo Beaty. In attendance via cell phone was Vice President Joey Byers.

The minutes of the October Executive Committee Meeting as printed in the November issue of the SERVANTE were approved by acclamation. Treasurer Lonnie Olander presented the November club financial report. The club's previous report Operating Account balance was \$2,381.86. The clubs had one disbursement, the club's typical \$13.86, which leaves the club with a current working balance of \$2368.

The club's annual December Christmas Party was discussed. The club will provide ham for the main course, with members and guests bringing side dishes. A possible gift exchange was discussed, with participants bringing a new or gently used magic trick with at \$20-\$25 value. President Poe announced that Jeff Martin will perform for the Christmas party. The committee agreed that the club will give Martin \$200 for his expenses.

The committee agreed that someone needs to be assigned as the central moderator for the club's Facebook pages. It was agreed that the club needs only two Facebook pages, one that is public and the other that is internal. It was decided that the Historian (probably Jack McCoy for 2026) will become the administrator of the club's two Facebook pages.

The committee also discussed the January Installation Banquet. The banquet and ceremony will be held once again at East Gourmet Buffet on Hulen Street in south Fort Worth, with members paying the restaurant directly for their individual meals. All attendees will pay five per person cash toward entertainment. Secretary Chadwick will contact Will Baffle and determine his availability to perform for the banquet.

The Executive Committee assigned itself as the Nominating Committee to seek officers for the new club year. The committee suggests Hare Evison for President, Gary Poe for Vice President, Bruce Chadwick for Secretary, Lonnie Olander for Treasurer, William Weebo Beaty for Sergeant at Arms, Jack McCoy for Historian, and Caleb Westeen for Member at Large.

With no further business, the meeting concluded to start the club's annual Swap Meet in the party room of the Illusion Warehouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Chadwick, Secretary





TRUST - PART THREE

The last form of trust we need from our audience is one that is being taken away from us. If unchecked it will likely deal a bigger blow to magic than any exposure ever did. What is this crucial trust we must foster? The audience must trust that “All cheating will be fair”, to take a line from Tommy Wonder.

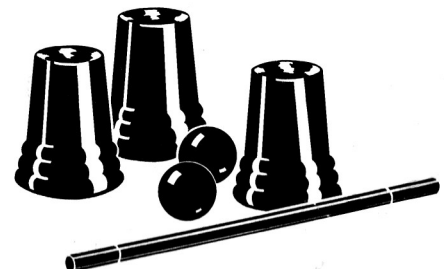
When magic first began to appear on TV there was fear that it wouldn't play well because the television audience would assume editing, camera tricks and the like were at play. The show announcers would say at the beginning of the show that no camera tricks or editing were going on and what you were about to see on TV would be the same as you would see live. It worked. The audience trusted and the trust was held in high regard by magicians and producers for decades. Trust has changed since then.

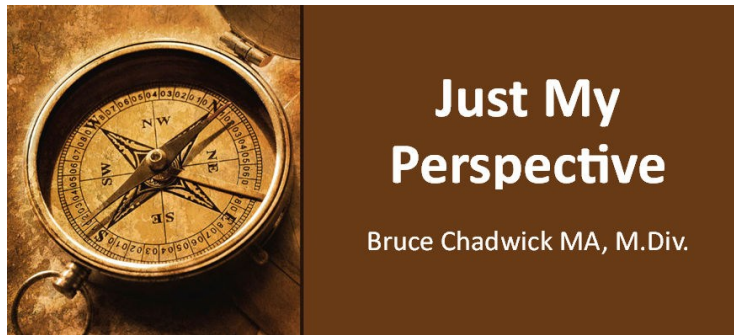
Technology has reached a level to easily let us sabotage our art and it is sad that an art that has survived so many centuries could die a death where technology would be the weapon but the pursuit of ‘likes’ and views would be the murderer.

Magic clips put up on YouTube that are performed sloppily enough to be accidental exposure are bothersome but that isn't the part that worries me. More bothersome are some well performed magic that is taking advantage of off screen and angle techniques to show a clip of magic that could not be performed live. This behavior has grown to include magic that could not exist without editing. Now AI rears it's head and puts incredible and rapidly growing editing tools in the hands of everyone and with that comes the power to destroy the audience's trust that “All cheating will be fair.” Special effects are not magic.

Technology has brought us to a new thing in magic that I shall call the “New Too Perfect Theory.” This is magic that will be assumed to just be technology. The problem isn't isolated to video. A lot of magic done with phones and other electronic gimmicks also fall under this umbrella. The mix of a little technology into magic is nothing new but today's exponential rate of technologies growth should make us stop and seriously consider if we want to put the effort of incorporating technology into our magic. I have heard stories of the amazement people felt when Blackstone sent a light bulb floating out over the audience. I don't think that could pack the same impact today because too many people would just think it was a clever drone unless it was performed in a more intimate setting.

In the old “Too Perfect Theory” the concern is that the trick is so good they have no guess left except the correct one. For the record, I disagree with the theory. In the “New too Perfect Theory,” the concern is that they won't think you did “magic” at all but used technology. They will assume you violated the unspoken agreement we have with our audience that “All cheating will be fair.”





NERVOUSNESS

The magicians who claim they never get nervous when they perform are the magicians who probably never perform! Nervousness is a natural human response to anything that causes stress, and performing in front of audiences can be very stressful. Most of the time nervousness revolves around situations where either a person is about to be judged or has the potential for being judged. It is an innate human emotion that can be caused by things such as taking exams, being interviewed for a job, having a romantic date, or speaking in front of crowds.

Many psychologists believe nervousness is caused by the brain's "fight-or-flight" response to perceived threats. This triggers the release of adrenaline, which increases heart rate and blood flow to muscles. Mild to severe panic can set in, anxiety can form, and even fear can manifest. Being nervous can produce trembling, apprehension, and irritability. Other physical symptoms can occur such as shortness of breath, sweating, rapid heartbeat, difficulty concentrating, restlessness, and "butterflies in the stomach." So is there a cure for nervousness? Is it possible for nervousness to go away? How can magicians deal with nervousness?

The old Abbott's Magic catalogs often had tidbits of advice and wisdom printed in them regarding various aspects of magic performance. When I was a teenager, one of the quotes that always stuck in my mind was "Nervousness disappears with confidence." Over my personal many years of experience performing magic, and my work coaching some well-known and many not so well known magicians, this old Abbott tag has held true time after time.

Just about everything humans do in life relies upon the confidence factor. When a person learns to tie their shoes, ride a bicycle, or drive a car, once they become proficient, confidence develops and the task becomes second nature. The performance of magic is the same sort of thing.

Sometimes seasoned magicians are asked if they get nervous before a performance. For the magic routines they have performed hundreds or even thousands of times, most magicians don't remember the last time they were nervous. They know their patter verbatim. They know what they are going to do and the sequence of events that will happen throughout their performance. Most of the time they even know how their audiences will react, where they will laugh, applaud, and even yawn. They have total confidence in their ability. Their confidence displaces even the slightest potential for nervousness.

For routines that are brand new to them however, or when they are working on uncharted material that hasn't been refined, there is a degree of uncertainty, and a bit of nervousness may raise its ugly head. It is possible for even the seasoned magician to question their ability. They may become a bit nervous because there is doubt. They are not totally convinced they are prepared. It is a new situation and there is the potential for disaster.

So in lieu of the confidence that comes with experience, how can magicians deal with nervousness? Relaxation techniques can be used such as deep breathing, meditation, and even prayer. Nervous magicians might close their eyes, try to relax, and run through their routines in their minds step-by-step. They may focus on positive outcomes through visualization. They may think about the times when their rehearsals were sound. They may grasp at anything that gives them a bit of confidence. Such magicians also know that the more they perform, experience will ease anxiety and nervousness will dissipate.



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and all that good stuff!

On the next 2 pages are images, t-shirt transfers, whatever your desire, that allow you to either perform a mind-reading effect, or a fully self-working version which involves no interaction on your part. **History:** Trick-specific, this is basically a redressing of my simple trick I named 'Secret Paths' and put in the 2009 manuscript 'Piece of 8, pg. 19' and prior in the 'Impossibilities' book series. It's basically my mapping of a binary sorting process involving 8 positions in 4 columns and a binary reduction process which,

although basic division it's well hidden and I've had a lot of fun with through the years. On the back of a t-shirt it could be fun to do for a curious person in line, or the no-hassle version simply for the curious person to ponder how it works.

Refer to the image on the next page and run through it a few times. Choose a 3 color pattern and begin on any elf on the top row. Follow the arrows matching your 3 choices from the top elf down to the elf it points to on the next row, from that elf's belt along the next arrow to the 3rd row and then finally to a snow man. You'll see you'll always end on the same snowman. Each of the possible color combinations lead to a particular colored snowman. Look at the key chart and you'll notice every 3 binary variant totals 1 snowman location. I've baked-in a few easy methods for remembering the color order from left to right and a simple method involving your fingers. You'll chop off certain fingers according to,,, just kidding, please don't chop off fingers as a method. There's far easier ones. For example, notice the order from left to right are the color order the visible light spectrum, with Indigo being replaced by white, violet is considered purple, and black has been added for the 8th color. A simple mnemonic people who are into these sort of things is the name 'ROY G. BIV', each letter representing the color, in this trick the last 2 are adjusted plus the color black added for location total of '8'. This should prove quite easy to remember.

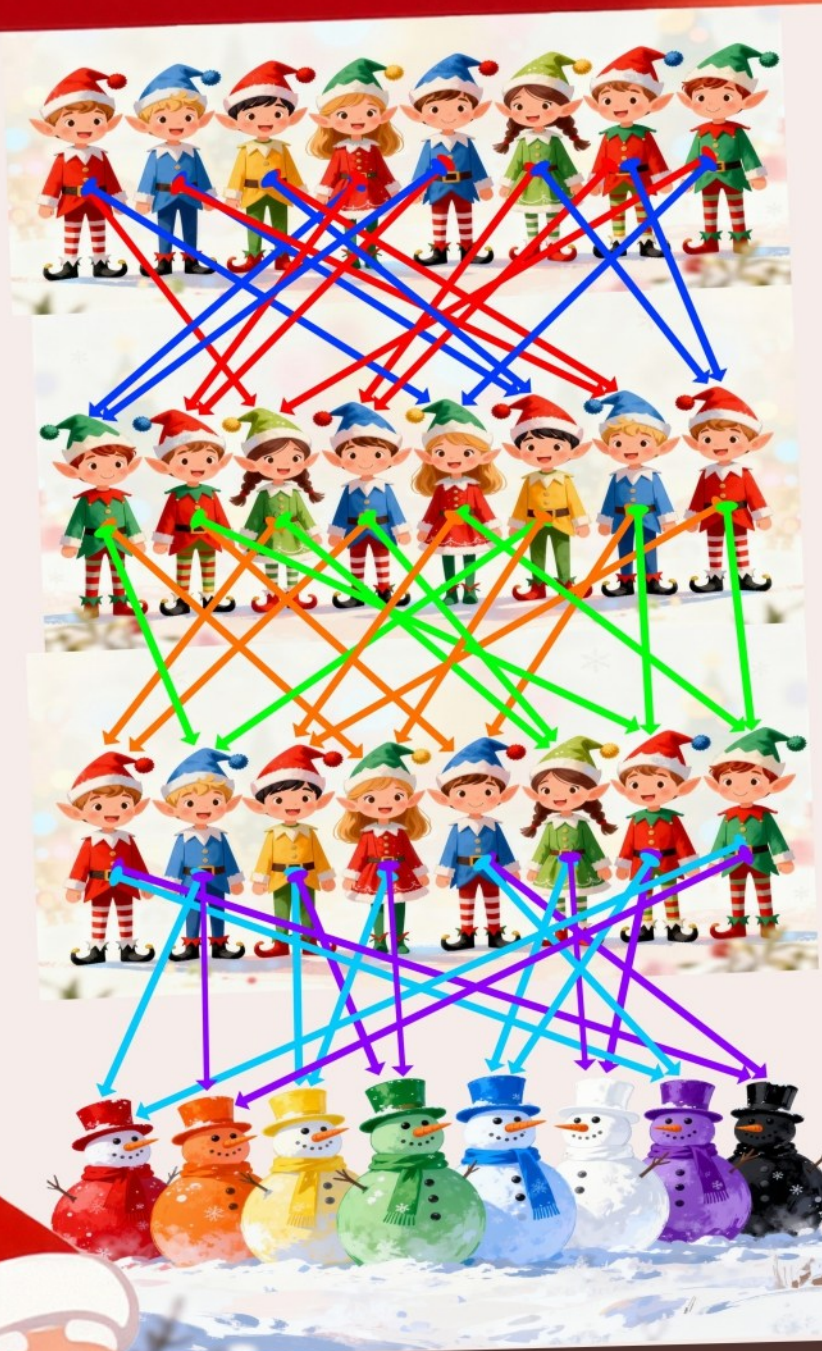
COLOR CHOICES, THEIR BINARY VALUES, AND SUBSEQUENT ENDING SNOWMAN

BLUE—0	BLUE—0	BLUE—0	BLUE—0	RED—4	RED—4	RED—4	RED—4
GREEN—0	GREEN—0	ORANGE—2	ORANGE—2	GREEN—0	GREEN—0	ORANGE—2	ORANGE—2
CYAN—1	PURPLE—2	CYAN—1	PURPLE—2	CYAN—1	PURPLE—2	CYAN—1	PURPLE—2
1-RED	2-ORANGE	3-YELLOW	4-GREEN	5-BLUE	6-WHITE	7-PURPLE	8-BLACK

Another easy way to keep track of the process is in the arrow color names. The spelled color of the lower binary value in each of the 2 choices is a lower letter alphabetically.

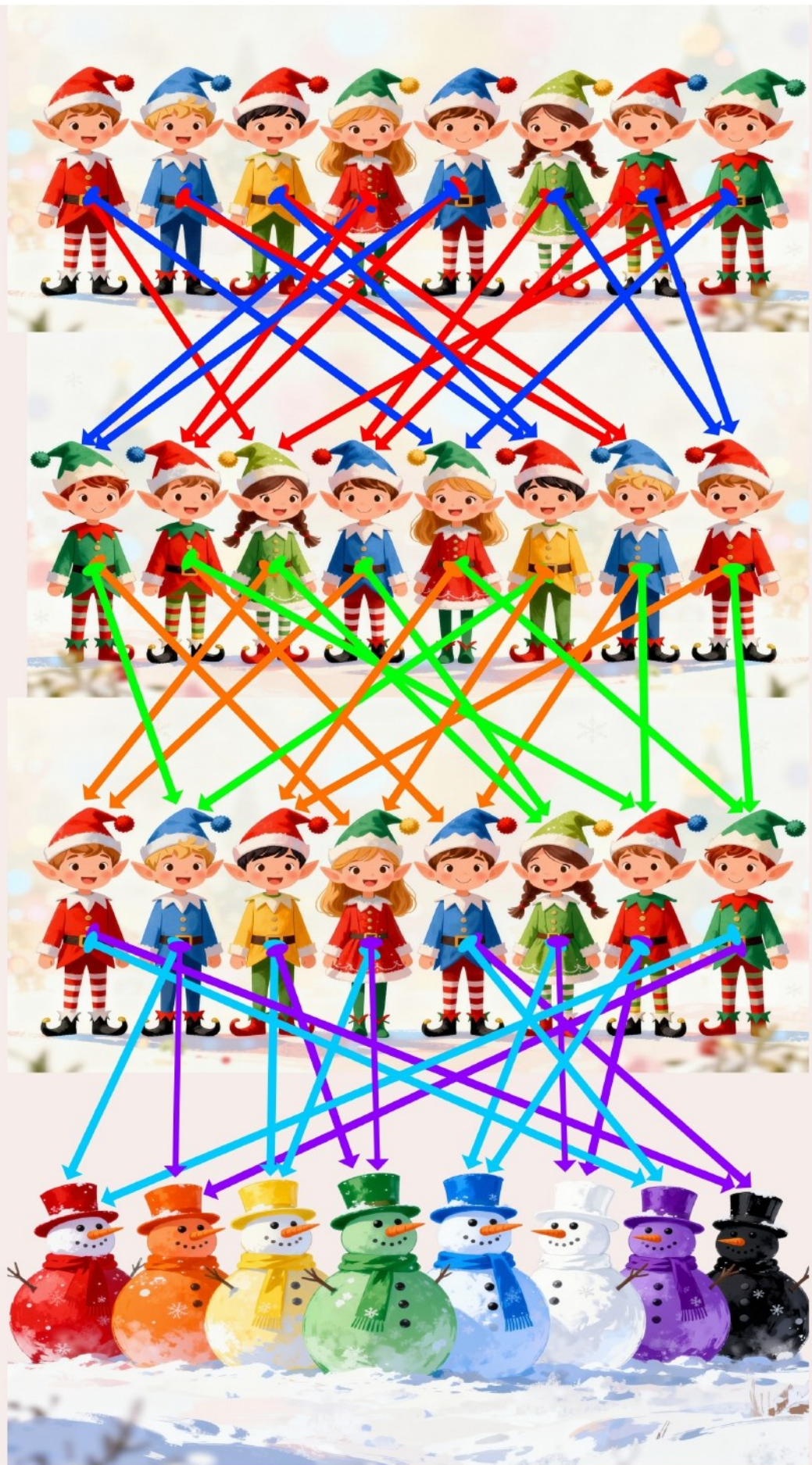
The 3rd 'finger' method is to casually extend the 4 fingers of each hand, thumbs excluded, while resting comfortably down at the sides. Think of them being in numeral order, the left pinky counting as '1' to the right pinky counting as '8' and each time eliminating half of however many fingers remain extending through the 3-step color choice process. **Example:** If the 1st choice is 'Blue', close the right fingers because 'Red' wasn't chosen. Suppose the next choice is 'Orange', you'll close the leftmost 2 fingers of the left hand (pinky and ring) because Green wasn't chosen. Lastly suppose Cyan is chosen, you'd close your index of the remaining two extended fingers because Purple wasn't chosen. The final raised finger tells you the number position of snowman, in this case left middle finger (value of 3 - **Yellow**) when counting from the left. In other words, each choice eliminates either the left or right half of the remaining possible positions in which the spectator will end.

Patter Importance: The general routine I use is to instruct them to put their finger on any elf on the top row. Mention you have no idea which elf they've chosen. If on a shirt request they point at it without touching. Now, mention the 2 colors, blue and red, and request they tell you one. Suppose they say "Blue." Tell them to follow the blue arrow leaving their elf's belt buckle and follow it to the elf on the next row down which it is pointing to. Ask they keep their finger on/at that new elf, and **very importantly mention there's no way you can know which elf they're now at as you didn't know which elf they began, and each travel to different elves**. This is the secret verbal misdirection, a convincer if you will which makes this trick work and hides the simple division sorting per binary that's going on. Continue this process through the 3 choices. Once they're pointing at a snowman, again mention their directions were freely chosen and you have no idea which elves they travelled through. This is a very true statement and a reason the effect is strong. Mention therefore, you couldn't have any idea which snowman they're now touching/pointing at. This is total b.s. as you know exactly which snowman they've chosen. Pretend to concentrate in some magical mental way then reveal their snowman color they're touching/pointing to their surprise!



CHOOSE:
RED OR BLUE,
GREEN OR ORANGE,
CYAN OR PURPLE

FOLLOW YOUR 3 CHOSEN
COLOR ARROWS AND YOU'LL
ALWAYS END ON THE SAME
SNOWMAN, REGARDLESS
WHICH TOP ELF YOU BEGIN!



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DFW AREA MAGIC HAPPENINGS

FORT WORTH SAM ASSEMBLY 138 ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse party room and magic shop located at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Contact chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com or go to www.sam138.com. Also Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162025544420781/>



FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB INC AND REN CLARK IBM RING 15

Meets on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm. See <https://fortworthmagiciansclub.org/>

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE

See the Mid-Cities Magic Circle Facebook group.

DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174

See www.DallasMagic.org for meeting information.



IMPROV COMEDY CLUBS IN ADDISON AND ARLINGTON

Both comedy clubs periodically host weekend comedy magic shows. For more details go to either www.ImprovArlington.com or www.ImprovAddison.com.

MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM

Periodic magic shows every 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm at The Line Public House, 940 E Beltline in Richardson. See www.MagicLivingRoom.com for more information.

