

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics
Meets 4th Thursday at 7:15 PM each month
Knoxville First Seventh Day Adventist Church Annex
3625 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee

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Our August meeting was a week later than normal so that we could accommodate the busy lecture schedule of New Orleans street performer, Doug Conn. Nineteen members and three guests (plus Doug!) attended the lecture.

During the lecture, Doug gave some incredible insight into his experience working the streets of New Orleans. His frank comments about his experience were a welcome addition to our lecture. He talked about his table set-up, his pitch with a hat, and also the effects that he did to pull in a crowd.

Beyond that, Doug did some great magic. He started with his “magic coins” which included his thoughts on a “one-coin flurry” and an amazingly well motivated Coins to Coffee Cup (both with an extra coin and impromptu). Later, his version of Shadow Coins with Dean Dill’s influence was very impressive – and although it didn’t elicit oohs & ahs from a group of magicians, we could see the potential impact on laymen.

Doug is a worker with tremendous experience. His magic flip stick, Chameleon Sandwich (from his 1999 book “Tricks of my Trade” by Paul Cummins), and even his routine with the multiplying rabbits were just a few of the stellar examples of high-impact magic for the street performer or any close-up magician. Even though Doug seemingly down-played his talent in a humble sort of way, his two-hour lecture was filled with usable material that any magician could add to set list. As the lecture came to a close, we appreciated his work with the Triumph shuffle, the Linking Ropes, and his expertise with a multi-stacked deck that Doug was able to negotiate almost effortlessly with a series of pinky counts and passes. After the lecture we adjourned to Applebee’s and enjoyed more fellowship and food!

Tom Vorjohan