

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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With just one week to our 40th annual Winter Carnival of Magic, nineteen members and seven guests (including the return of five of the Justice family!) got together for some final preparations and to do some magic. Our business ran almost an hour, but we had to prepare for over 300 registrants to arrive next Thursday. We also unanimously voted to award “Lifetime Membership” status to five of our stellar, long-term members for their outstanding service and participation over the past decades. These are: Ed Denny, Bob Carter, John Bloor, and Don & Judy Cox. Thank you and congratulations!

The whacky theme for the evening was “Magic That Makes You Giddy.” Ed Ripley started by telling us how giddy he was for being accepted to compete in both the close-up and stage categories at the I.B.M./SAM combined convention! He then performed a jaw-dropping Professor’s Nightmare using individual red, white and blue ropes. Ed Denny gave us a lesson in some probability that made Ben both giddy and \$35 richer! Bev Coffey pushed three small silks into a tube and they changed into a small feather plume. As Bev said, “I may not be giddy, but feathers always tickle me!”

One of our guests, Curtis Stabler, did a bit of mentalism with a thought of and signed card appearing in a sealed envelope that was sitting on the table. Dawson Parker made us giddy as he did a very unexpected and visual shirt change. Our newest I.B.M. member, Preston Gull had two cards selected and replaced in the deck, and with a toss the two cards jumped out of the deck. Michael Priestap did a favorite trick of his: The Amazing Four Ten Trick where each ten flipped over, changed color and then had marked backs.

Ben Young – who proclaimed, “I’m so giddy!” – did an amazing routine as he memorized the deck to reveal a previously selected card. Tom Vorjohan was giddy as he showed a custom-made version of Jim Kleefeld’s “Cinema Verite” using book titles that he and Jim worked on to create. As the evening ended, the energy was still high as we realized we’d all be back together in less than seven days for the Winter Carnival. We really are giddy!

Tom Vorjohan