

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:00 PM each month  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn 37919

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Since there were five Thursday's in April, attendance was down (we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, it's confusing when we meet on something other than the "last" Thursday), but the nine members and two guests had a blast! A workshop with Nathan Kranzo was planned for mid-May, we briefly heard about Ben Young's whirlwind trip to Vegas to do guest spots with Murray, and we learned that Bill Osburn will be offering a week-long "Discover Magic" course in Oak Ridge over the summer. There was a lot of confirmed acts for the 2016 Winter Carnival...including Larry Hass, Danny & Jan Orleans, and Kyle & Mistie Knight! We also conducted our election of officers: President – Jack Wilson; Vice-President – Michael Messing; Secretary – Tom Vorjohan; Treasurer – Mike Stratman; Sgt-at-Arms – Bill Sturgis; Program Chairman – Ben Young; Board of Directors – David Case, Michael Priestap, Roger Reeves, and Ed Ripley.

The theme for the magic was "Double Feature: Jaws vs. Back to the Future." Before we even got rolling with the performances, Mark Young (whose house is on the market, and will be leaving the area once it sells) led a great discussion about the Kellar Levitation. This was prompted by one of the books and props that Mark brought for Don Cox who is giving away his lifetime collection of magic. Michael Priestap set the bar very high as he presented a magic montage that was an abridged review of Back to the Future 1, 2, and 3, and then followed it with a hysterical Jaws "chewed to pieces" effect. All of it defies explanation, and we loved it! Bill Osburn had an ongoing Lota Bowl (thanks to Don Cox!) and he did Justin Flom's Pull My Finger.

Combining something old and something new, Tom Vorjohan did his Bill in Lemon and also premiered his presentation of Cue Cards with Jennifer Holsopple. Ben Young did an effect taking us back in time with cards he learned earlier that day from a Josh Jay DVD. Jack Wilson picked two of his own favorite movies – The Pass and Chicken Run – and found the chosen card on top of the deck using a light-up chicken in the dark (we think that's when he did the Pass!). And to end the frivolity, Bev Coffey did a sight gag with a razor that had a plug on it that sparked, and then vanished a goldfish in a fish bowl (because he didn't have a shark in a bowl!). For those that didn't make it, it cannot be repeated; when the effects were totaled, it was a three-to-three tie between Jaws and Back to the Future. It was a fun evening of magic, fellowship and popcorn!

Tom Vorjohan