

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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We began 2016 a week earlier than normal so that we could stuff almost 400 envelopes with flyers for our upcoming Winter Carnival of Magic. With the threat of bad weather, we had just eleven members and five guests...but we had a great evening of magic. We used our new earlier start time for the business meeting, then we had a feature performance by our own award-winning Ed Ripley. Not only did Ed do his complete updated close-up contest act (which came in 2<sup>nd</sup> at this past summer's I.B.M. convention!) but he also did his money printer, "slang card" prediction, Hopping Halves, and Cardiographic. Outstanding!

After a short break, we had two initiation performances. Kijan Daniel did a series of card effects with a fun presentation and great magic. He even did a card transposition from under someone's foot. Eric Smerda did his version of Red Hot Momma, an impressive double-deck match, and a slop shuffle effect. Both Kijan and Eric were unanimously welcomed into our Ring. Our theme for the evening was "New Beginnings" and Phil Houghton did an effect that not only found the chosen card, but also the remaining aces were found along with all the matching suits of the selected card. Tom Vorjohan showed the newest trick he's put in his act: Shoe It 2.0 with Siri. Michael Messing has added a monte effect that he can do with kids called Mo Money Monte. To finish the themed performances Michael Priestap had a new and very creative way to introduce a Cut and Restored Rope effect.

Several members were ready to participate in our Show & Tell segment of the evening. Bill Sturgis showed an ornament with a rabbit and a top hat that he received for Christmas but plans to display all year 'round. Jack Wilson brought one of the big Fantasma Magic kits that he has had at his house for months, but hadn't opened – until tonight. We were all like kids watching him get the box open and seeing what was inside! Tom Vorjohan shared the news that he will be helping with the Magic Beyond Belief show in Pigeon Forge in the coming season, and he also talked about working with the Down Syndrome organization called S.M.I.L.E. two weekends ago and how special that was for him. Tom also taught a trick where a selected card is removed from a shuffled and boxed deck in a spectator's pocket. Ben Young also had some input on another non-palming way to do the trick. To end the evening, Dawson Parker made sound come out of a bag of potato chips! Great participation and a great evening with friends.

Tom Vorjohan