

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:45 PM each month  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn 37919

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With just 14 members and one visitor, we had a hugely magic-filled meeting in May. We are already getting excited about the 2017 Winter Carnival of Magic, and have confirmation that the I.B.M. president, Oscar Munoz, along with Michael Dardant and Diamond Jim Tyler will be performing. We installed officers for the coming year, then our new Program Chairman, Michael Priestap, started the “Now You See It, Now You Don’t” performances with John Hopper changing a red silk to black and a vanishing egg. Tom Vorjohan made all the faces of the 51 cards not chosen turn blank in a new trick he is working on.

Michael Priestap went to vanish a silk, but the thumb tip vanished instead much to our amusement. Then he vanished a penny from under a card, made a whole deck vanish, and shrunk a nickel. Later he showed a small black ventriloquist dummy that looked like Lester used by Willie Tyler. Phil Houghton surprised us all by appearing tonight (after his chemo treatment earlier in the day!) and he vanished a signed quarter and it reappeared in a nest of boxes. For our “Show & Tell” segment, Harold Whips showed us a new Electric Deck that he got from Penguin magic. Mike Stratman shared his time-tested Egg Bag routine.

For our Works in Progress portion, Ben Young did his twist on one of his favorites: Paul Harris’ Bizarre Twist. We had Eric Smerdon did a fun sequence of vanishes and reappearances of a quarter with a spectator. Michael Priestap had acquired a Die Box at an auction a while ago, with no instructions...so he had Tom Vorjohan perform his routine that he used to do 30 years ago. To end the meeting, Jack Wilson hypnotized a borrowed smart phone (that he learned from a recent *Linking Ring*) and Mike Stratman walked us through the story of how he got involved in the I.B.M. from 1949 to eventually becoming the International President and continues working with the convention committee.

Tom Vorjohan