

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics
Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00 PM each month
Knoxville First Seventh Day Adventist Church Annex
3625 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee

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Every year as we get close to the Winter Carnival of Magic, we get excited and LOTS of members attending...31 to be exact. We put some finishing touches on the details of the WCM, and then a little business (we will be having Gregory Wilson lecture in June), and we ate some snacks. Ring members would have made Henry Ford proud the way we quickly put together the give-a-way tote bags for the WCM.

Performances began with two initiation performances. Justin Webb did a Three Fly routine with the coins transferring from hand-to-hand. William Sturgis did a rope effect and then used a Crystal Silk Cylinder. He ended with beads in a Chick Pan that linked together. Both of these guys were unanimously welcomed into our Ring. Bev Coffey, who joined last month, then performed a few candle effects because he wanted us to see more than the one semi-impromptu effect he did previously.

This month's theme was NO magic! So members had eight minutes to do or discuss any other talent...just not magic. It was a hoot to see an animation film made by Michael Priestap in the '80s. Ed Denny did his medicine pitch act to our delight. Kyle Copeland discussed editing music to use during your act. Ken Muller read a couple passages from books he has written and talked about storytelling. Wayne Bromberg did several three different balloon figures (ray gun, "cootie" and his favorite sword).

Caleb Bailey discussed his background in film and martial arts and the application to his magic. Mike Stratman had some pictures from his younger years where he was doing escapes, and he discussed rope, chain, packing box, and straight jacket escapes. Steven Knowles brought his mandolin and did three songs for the group. Ben Young showed three of his "Impossible Bottles" with a variety of things inside of bottles. Jason Rieger showed the basics of how to stack cards into a sturdy structure. Michael Messing showed several of the photos he's taken and what makes a good promotional photo.

Tom Vorjohan met Jim Zachary at a Winter Carnival several years ago and learned one-on-one how to stack dice, so Tom showed the basics of that. Chris Berney did a variety of three-object juggling that was very entertaining. Jack Wilson provided all of us with a loop of string and a website address and then showed a variety of complex string figures. John Hopper discussed his interest in ventriloquism and talked about the Vent Haven convention coming up in July. Ed Ripley, who has ten patents in his name, discussed how to pursue a patent. Finally, Danny Justice demonstrated how to pick a plethora of locks. It was a great meeting!

Tom Vorjohan