

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics
Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00 PM each month
Messiah Lutheran Church
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn 37919
JACK WILSON, President
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Although we always meet the 4th Thursday of the month, we move things up a couple weeks in December for our special holiday celebration. President Jack Wilson spearheaded the planning which included a catered Mexican fiesta from Salsarita's, cookies from Zeke's Dunkin Donuts, some entertainment and the always popular "Dirty Magician" gift swap...oh, and a James Bond type of ending.

We met upstairs in the fellowship hall of our new church meeting place for the first time. The space was perfect for the 42 members and their families that attended. The Ring actually paid the bill, so dinner was free! The "taco bar" was perfect for our group and there was plenty of food from Salsarita's. Just as we were finishing, Zeke Powerz and his wife came through the door (from Blairsville, Georgia – 2 ½ hours away!) with a gross of still warm and soft chocolate-chip cookies from Dunkin Donuts. Thanks Zeke!

Derek Granfield – one of two of our members with a British accent – kicked off our evening show and introduced one of our newest members Jason Murphy to entertain with his "other" talent: juggling. The entire time Jason performs he smiles, and his technique with three & four balls as well as three clubs was a joy to watch. Derek gave us a little humor before introducing a long-time friend of our Ring, and the TVP of Tennessee, Tom Gibson. Tom started performing magic in 1976 when he took a job as a magic demonstrator for Ripley's, and the nearly 40 years of experience showed in his presentation and fun-filled style of several rope effects, "brief commercial" interludes, and his signature finish combining water poured into a paper that turned to snow and ultimately ended with a Torn & Restored paper.

Derek moved us right into our gift swap which went for just under an hour and a half and ended with us cleaning up and leaving just moments before the church's alarm was automatically set! What a great evening! The trading around of gifts is always a spectacle to watch, and we had everything from magic books to several flying objects and even a couple of scooters. Fun for all we hope!

Tom Vorjohan