

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

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As October is unseasonably warm this year, our Ring took Tom up on his offer to again grill out some burgers and brats, and twelve members and two guests showed up at his home to enjoy a beautiful Fall evening on his deck. After eating, our Program Chairman, Tim Pressley, kicked things off with jewels turning into a selected card. Michael Priestap was performing to the tune of “Hit the Road Jack” as he vanished a CD. Mike Stratman shared with us the story about his Packing Box Escape that he built many years ago for a big public show, and the box was on display and inspected before his show. Then we learned that he later sold it to David Fee who used it for an underwater escape.

Victor Agreda is currently reading Jason Ladanye’s book “Game Changer” and he discussed the excellent magic he’s working on from it. Jack Wilson actually did a Halloween themed trick from this month’s Genii on page 70 called “Trick or Treat” with some envelopes. Bill Sturgis did a Oil and Water effect with four black and four red cards that was his grandfathers. Tom Vorjohan did the Hundy 500, then worked on it with Ed Ripley to refine the handling. Steve Jerden with his grandson, Cayden Goodman, took a ring off a rope.

As we headed to the end of the meeting, Evan Bishop told a great story about modifying a trick he learned from Apocalypse and modified for his high school talent show. And we were joined virtually by Bill Osburn who updated us on his moving poster progress, as well as Michael Trixx who did both a cut and restored ribbon and followed it with a great Zoom trick with a Rock & Roll deck of cards and a revelation that had Trixx wearing a Gene Simmons mask to match the chosen card!

After the magic, most of us hung around to discuss a little business. We have decided that we will not be getting together for a Christmas party in December, and we met a couple weeks later in November to discuss the Winter Carnival of Magic; after discussing a lot of pros & cons, we unanimously agreed that we will not host the 2021 Winter Carnival of Magic. The risks with the disease and the timing of a March convention just made it impossible.

Tom Vorjohan