

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

VICTOR AGREDA, JR., President

(865) 223-1401 / e-mail: vagredajr@gmail.com

To avoid conventions and holiday celebrations, the September, October, and November Ring meetings are moved up a week to the third Thursday. We had fifteen people at the meeting; three were via Zoom, one potential member who had been at the Trunk Sale, one guest (Kim Mulhaney, who designed our website), and ten members. To start, we had an initiation performance by Doug Floyd who had previously been a member back in the '80s, and he did a superlative performance that included four effects. Throughout his performance, Doug quoted some famous authors and went from a new Oil & Water stand-up effect called Pow, a card revelation in a completely blank deck, a fun correct-key effect with the winning key getting a banana and also an excellent chosen card a any number. We welcomed Mr. Floyd unanimously and are glad to have him back after a near forty-year hiatus!

The theme for the night was “Vanishing,” and Bill Osburn opened with a novel use of a Lippencott Box to vanish a borrowed ring that was then found in his pocket. Tim Pressley also followed the theme as he brought his “vanishing handkerchief” which did not vanish itself, but rather vanished anything that was put inside of it, and even reproduced a quarter that he had vanished earlier in the day. Jim Stott brought in the program from the 1963 I.B.M. Convention that was held in Knoxville, Tennessee. Before he showed it around, he performed a trick he was inspired to make after that convention to vanish a silk in a paper tube. (Jim was 15 at the time, living in Williamsburg, Kentucky, and – because of all the hype in the papers and the evening news – he got permission to ride the bus down to the convention with his friend). He fondly told stories of the show he saw which included Willard the Wizard’s final performance.

Dressed in a black cape and playful top hat, John Gyllenhaal did his Lady Bug routine with “Dot and Cherry” and told how he does his sponge ball routine based on the fact that he was “scarred for life” by the first magician he ever saw. Once again, Roy Schubert did a fantastic piece of mental magic using notecards with countries and a randomly torn-out page from a book to match one word with one card. Tom Vorjohan (joining via Zoom) taught a messed-up version of Out of This World that has been released by Liam Montier. Bill Sturgis is planning to compete in a couple weeks in South Carolina at Magic on the Beach, and he did his cartoon-themed act that included a Spider Man match, a Torn and Restored action-figure poster, the Rainbow Rope Circle trick bringing three different-colored ropes together, and also his big finish.

To end the evening, Jack Wilson did a bit of card magic and finished strong with his favorite three-phase rope tie effect, which has been named the “Hyder Torture Trick.” Michael Messing even purchased a deck of cards on the way to the meeting and did two excellent tricks: the Lazy Magician’s Card Trick and also a demonstration of how to cheat at cards. We believe our web designer had a fun evening, and we look forward to more fun and fellowship next month.

Tom Vorjohan