

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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After a fun-filled December with our annual holiday party early in the month that included a catered meal, “Dirty Santa” gift exchange, plus a performance by Nashville Ring 37 members Mike Burger and Scott Cantrell. In the spirit of giving, four members of our club went to Ring 37’s holiday party the week prior; tremendous thanks to Sherman Wires, Michael Priestap, Roy Schubert and Ed Ripley for their time and efforts to make the drive to Nashville.

To start 2024 off with some great magic, we invited Charlotte, North Carolina magician, Scott Robinson, to lecture on the 4th Thursday of January. We had been trying to arrange a date with Scott for several months, and we were delighted that we could also use the Hyder’s new studio which was both gorgeous and perfect for the lecture for almost 20 members and guests. Prior to the lecture, members stamped and attached mailing labels on almost 250 postcards for the upcoming Winter Carnival of Magic.

Scott’s wife, Janet Robinson, introduced her husband to the group – although Scott needs no introduction to our group since he is a long-time regular of the Winter Carnival of Magic, and he has recently (2.018) released his beautiful 304-page book *Scott Robinson’s Pure Imagination*, written by Andi Gladwin and John Campbell. Scott added that the book is now on its 3rd printing!

For the next two hours, we were treated to ten fantastic routines using cards and coins – almost all of them were directly from his book. Scott made this wonderfully photographed book come alive as he walked us through some of his pet effects and creations. Several of us already had Scott’s book in our collections, but it was great to see him perform some of the effects like “The Toy” (page 13 – the first trick in the book), “The Sound of Silence” (page 296 – where three coins travel silently to a coffee cup), “Loose Change” (page 46 – an impromptu visual stunner with a quarter and a penny), and “Home Wrecker” (page 267 – a fantastic three-phase Royal Marriage plot with the kings and queens mating up almost effortlessly without gaffs).

The other effects were equally impressive, and personally I think Mr. Robinson’s “Visual Retentive Vanish” is worth the price of the book as it is a much more relaxed and logical vanish for one or more coins to vanish silently. Scott was an excellent teacher as he patiently went through his routines, and even invited members to take photos or videos for their own personal retention. The last trick he did, called “The Sexy Card Trick,” is yet unpublished, but it was a great performance piece as Scott had “Let’s Get It On” playing in the background and just sixteen ungimmicked cards performing a type of “McDonald’s Aces” but with cards that the spectators could hold and examine. I think this may be the start of Volume 2 of his Pure Imagination! Thank you Scott for a wonderful lecture that we highly recommend!

Tom Vorjohan