

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

Michael Priestap, President

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Hello summer! Fourteen members and one dear friend of the Ring, Steve Gronowski, attended the June meeting. The Ring has had a busy month as several had attended Justin Willman's show at the Bijou, others went to see one of Michael Messing's library shows, and a couple enjoyed Jason Hudy and Ray Adams over in Pigeon Forge...oh, and fourteen gathered on a Saturday afternoon at Jim Stott's home. Lots of magic fun and fellowship over the past 30 days!

Our meeting was themed to be "Peculiar Parlor Magic" – because so many of the props we use for magic have been (and continue to be) odd, unusual, and downright peculiar. Program chairman Andrew Hyder shared two variations of a pyramid that when inverted was still an upright pyramid. Michael Messing shared both a silk production cone and a rather unusual Flip Flap box. Tom Vorjohan discussed his bizarre fish monkey bar and then performed his original Card in Balloon "Sadie the Seal" from Supreme by Ian Adair. Jack Wilson brought his "Tux the Bear" who could do color mindreading with a chip hidden in his mouth. And to conclude the peculiar, Ray Adams was completely blindfolded including a metal plate in the shape of bunny ears, and he could still determine a variety of drawings and a thought of celebrity.

After that, the remainder of the magic was a little less peculiar! Ed Ripley told a few "Dad Jokes" and then put a handkerchief in a corked bottle and had it boogey around. Sherman Wires was assisted by three members and one hid a red sponge ball in an outstretched hand...and Sherman repeatedly could tell who had the ball. Our newest member, Andrew McGrath, welcomed us to "Café 58" and had Ray clean out a coffee cup and place a saucer on top – yet some vanished salt miraculously appeared in the cup just moments later.

Past International President, Mike Stratman, brought the first trick he ever bought: a version of Crazy Spot made of wood (about 60 or maybe 70 years old). Jim Stott had started working with David Garrard's Cards Across using envelopes, and tonight was the first time he performed it. Taking the pocket trick with numbers from 1 to 63 on six cards, Steve Jerden reworked it to larger sheets with bigger numbers and performed the Mind Calculator for the group.

As we headed into the home stretch, we always enjoy "Works in Progress" being shared and asking for input. Andrew McGrath did a little "reverse math" adding two four-digit numbers, he found four cards to be the four digits of one of the numbers. And it is always a delight to have Roy Schubert blow our minds with something new...this time a "telekinesis demonstration" where a random word was found on a random page of a random book – written in bold marker! Roy is one of our Ring's best kept secrets for innovative mentalism.

Tom Vorjohan