

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:45 PM each month

Messiah Lutheran Church

6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Michael Priestap, President

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The July meeting was excellent with nineteen members present including Tim Waddell who did his initiation performance at the start of the meeting that featured a coin vanish and his variation on the Hot Rod. No need for Zoom set up this evening as Tom Vorjohan was in town and could enjoy the meeting in person. The theme was “Packet Tricks” – or as our Program Chairman, Andrew Hyder, likes to say: playing with less than a full deck.

Fifteen members performed this evening with 13 doing packet tricks, so let’s start there. Ed Ripley opened with some good news: he has been writing songs for years, and the day before the meeting he was at Hilltop Recording in Nashville having a demo put together with two of his songs! He then showed a series of cards with cereal box fronts and the chosen cereal was the only blue-back card. Tim Pressley worked with Sherman Wires pertaining to coincidence with Aldo Columbini’s matching trick. Using Mr. Ripley as his assistant, Bill Osburn used a 10-card packet and then shared his latest large Kickstarter purchase that he called an “engineering marvel” – and we agreed – but now what to do with it?

Beginning with thoughts about charisma, Roy Schubert did two mind-blowing creations: first, a thumb-tacked word matched a prediction with Roy across the room; second, three chosen cards matched three cards that were selected an hour ahead of time. Steve Jerden used four cards and the one odd one among them could not be found as it was in his wallet. Jim Stott took another shot at David Garrard’s Cards Across as three selected cards went from Tim’s envelope to Andrew’s envelope. Proving that there are some great effects that we have forgotten about, Michael Messing did Ron Frost’s “Wild Card Outdone” from Frank Garcia’s 1977 Wild Card Miracles – this is worth looking up and it was well done by Mr. Messing.

Somehow, our President, Michael Priestap, found packet-trick music (“The Empty Packet”) and did his Famous Four Tens Trick where they changed back color, turned blank faced, and all marked with an “X” on the back (Nick Trost’s “Marked Cards”). He also did Paul Cummings effect with a cavorting Ace of Spades. Tom Vorjohan was delighted to not try to perform on the computer screen, and he showed gimmicks that came with some Fast-Food Playing Cards and performed his handling for a Clue version of a ten-card poker deal originally shown to him by Stephen Bargatze. Having spent \$2 back in 1986 at his first Ring 58 meeting he attended, Jack Wilson did “Cyclotron” as he pattered about smashing and “unsmashing” atoms that were spots on cards...and this was the first time Jack learned the trick in over 30 years!

Our illustrious Past International President, Mike Stratman, announced that he was honored at the July convention to be made one of only five living Honorary Lifetime Members of the I.B.M., then he performed a twist on the clock trick that was published in the latest *Linking Ring*. We were glad to have John Gyllenhaal arrive just a bit late so he could do his ultimate favorite

packet effect by Gordon Bean called Entourage with just four cards and any Queen called for will be among three jokers...and it can be repeated!

Other than packet tricks, Bill Sturgis shared a piece of mental magic with the Anverdi dice and three prediction boards. Bill is working on this routine for the Unconventional Convention in November. Ray Adams also combined Diffatte's handcuff trick with the Ten Dollar Bills trick for a unique bit of funny business. This was the first time Ray got to try out this routine in front of real people. To end the evening after a quick break, Andrew Hyder did a walk-thru of Vernon's Twisting the Aces, and many members tried to do it with him and ask questions. A fantastic evening of magic in Knoxville!

Tom Vorjohan