

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics
Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00 PM each month
To Be Determined...call if in town!

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The August meeting was bittersweet. We have been meeting at the Seventh Day Adventist church centrally located in the heart of Knoxville for about 20 years; this was our last meeting at the church's facilities. We are now actively searching for a new location. Fifteen members and three guests (two of which joined the Ring at this historic meeting) enjoyed the evening together. After some business (most of which was frantically brainstorming for a new meeting place), we did some magic.

First, Jason Murphy did several effects for his initiation performance. He had a fun opener about "something" as a silk appeared and "nothing" as it vanished again, then a two-coin trick with a half dollar and English penny, and finally a prediction effect that showed his great personality. The membership eagerly voted Jason in, and we hope he will be a regular even though he has to drive in from over an hour west of Knoxville.

The theme for the rest of us was "Back to School" – so we were to do something related to school or teaching a trick. Mark Young showed a trick that he has used for times where he has to teach a trick. It was the "Sheep Thieves" with seven coins and the story that goes along with it. Mike Stratman did an effect with five envelopes and a spectator who could name any number from one to five, and the contents of that envelope was the only "loser" of the stack. Don Cox had his memory jogged after seeing Mark's trick, so he did the Five Little Piggies...and to our delight, that last pig did indeed wee-wee all the way home! He then did a trick with "Jersey Loops" where they switched places and then he showed how to cut and restore the loops.

Tom Vorjohan has been doing Shawn Farquhar's "Ultimate Invisible, and he taught the group how to make a gimmick that would allow for a similar trick. Jack Wilson grabbed a couple of his early tricks out of the drawer including a spiked coin and a Tenyo ring penetration. John Hopper got in front of the group with his tongue-in-cheek presentation of a grey "hare," a red "E" and a free "B" along with more foam groaners. Michael Priestap delivered a joke that was another groaner as "the bartender gave it to her." And before it was all over, our first-time guest, Andrew Hyder, decided he wanted to perform and join the Ring. He did an effect where he could tell the number of cards cut off of a deck just by their weight in his hand, a multi-ending "further-than-that" card effect that he learned from our former member Bob Knigge, and he closed with a trick using the window on a dollar bill. Again, after a quick vote, Andrew was welcomed into Ring 58.

Tom Vorjohan