

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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Our June meeting was a small but mighty group of ten members and one family guest, but we had 100% participation for the first time this year! The theme was “Red, White and Blue Magic” and our performances started with Mike Stratman performing his version of Abbott’s Sympathetic Napkin Rings with several color changes. Mike had the 40+ year old instructions that he asked for input on. Michael Messing did a color-changing card/deck effect that he has been doing for decades that he learned at a magic camp. Bev Coffey then showed the Silk through Mirror effect – one of the hundred that he made back in the ‘70s.

Finally, Bill Sturgis did his Mis-Made Flag effect using a Silk Cabby. (We were originally worried half the performances would be with scrambled-up flags!) Harold Whipps was back with us this month and did a comedy Cut Silk in a paper tube...sort of like the Banana/Bandana effect with Jack Wilson reading the instructions. Delighted, we introduced the young Samantha Rieger (who is just a couple months away from turning seven when she plans to join the Ring!) who used the Buddha Money Mystery to turn a cartoon picture into a picture wearing the same red, white and blue hat! Not to be left out this month, Samantha’s dad, Jason Rieger, use the same method to do a more conventional card changing effect...very cute to have father/daughter duo enjoying the fun.

Moving into the Show & Tell portion of the meeting, Michael Messing presented his version of Jay Sankey’s “Wanderful.” Michael Priestap used the “Memento” movie-inspired concept to present his effect backwards. This meant that his Mis-Made Flag started out correct and then went backwards until he ended with the three individual silks and then finished with his introduction...backwards! How do you follow that? Well Jack Wilson did a variation of the G.W. Hunter “Puzzle Knot” that he read about in Martin Gardner Presents where a ring on the rope ended up inside the knot formed without letting go of the ends.

To end the great evening of magic, president John Hopper did Barry Mitchel’s effect “Mother of All Diamonds.” We are very excited to have our own Ed Ripley again competing in this year’s combined IBM/SAM Convention, and Ed presented part of his planned routine for us at the meeting. Ed’s work is excellent, his costuming is fantastic, and his creativity is second-to-none. Good luck Ed!

Tom Vorjohan (via notes from Jack Wilson)