

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

JOHN HOPPER, President
(865) 335-6686 / e-mail: bjohopp9@aol.com

Our July meeting came at the end of a busy month for several of our members; Michael Messing was the official I.B.M. photographer at the Grand Rapids convention, and Tom Vorjohan was sworn in for his first of three years as an elected Executive Committee member on the I.B.M.'s Board. Tom also had written the cover story on Jessica Jane for the June issue and had an article published in July issue pertaining to the Ring's meeting format. Our very own Ed Ripley was on Penn & Teller's "Fool Us" on July 9, then he was competing in FISM just two days later in Korea. Ed has already been approached to consider being on "America's Got Talent." Tom Vorjohan also reported on his visit to Nashville's "House of Cards" earlier in the week and encouraged all to make the trek to this new magic mecca.

With twelve members, two family guests, and three first-time visitors, we were ready for some magic! We had two of our visitors perform for initiation into the Ring. First, twelve-year-old Cayden Goodman (who is the grandson of member Steve Jerden) smoothly performed a vanishing and reappearing silk in his closed fist, a vanishing knot from a silk, and a vanishing and reappearing coin. Danny Whitson from Oak Ridge showed the hand clasp warm up, a coin that fell up followed by his Coins Across and superlative Ambitious Card routines. We welcomed both Danny and Cayden into the Ring!

Our theme for the evening was "Thumb Tip Magic" and Michael Messing pulled a rabbit from a hat (silks), Bill Osburn changed water into red wine in his bare hands and then pulled all sorts of denominations of money out of thin air. Mike Stratman told his fox & rabbit story from his house, then he floated a glass with the largest thumb tip of the night! Tim Pressley showed what is meant by "in one ear and out the other" as he seemingly passed a silk through a spectator's head. Bill Sturgis poured salt and pepper on a plate and magically removed the pepper with the wave of his hand. Ray Adams did an excellent silk vanish sequence with a thumb tip, John Hopper was the first one with a set of "delightful" thumbs for the evening, Tom Vorjohan Mismade a hundred dollar bill, and Michael Priestap changed a dollar.

We moved into the "Move of the Month" which was the similar but different Dye Tube. Michael Messing is well known for his routine with a blue and yellow silk which he performed and discussed. Barry Mitchell showed his similar routine using a Palmo Ball rather than a conventional Dye Tube. For our "Open Mic" portion of the evening, Michael Priestap produced a solid bubble and talked about how magical this is when impromptu. Barry Mitchell used a rope to show a routine he was doing at this summer's libraries with a slip knot and throwing a knot. Tom Vorjohan showed what he has been working on with pop beads in relation to Dean's Beads. Tom also showed one of his I.B.M. convention purchases... which required him to force a fish.

Ray Adams showed one of his journals that he keeps and shared one of the passages he captured several years ago. Jack Wilson attempted a multi-media sharing of Ed Ripley's Fool Us performance, but the church's wifi was not cooperating. Steve Jerden brought in several effects that he got from Bev Coffey before he moved out of the area and asked for help in identifying what some of the pieces were. To end the evening, Barry Mitchell showed his previously marketed effect "The Black Hole" and its contemporary the Frog Trick. Lots of magic tonight...in fact, this was our third consecutive month with 100% participation!

Tom Vorjohan