

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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Let's just cut to the chase: this was our 4th consecutive month with 100% participation! We had twelve members and one guest at the August meeting, and even our first-time guest caught the fever and got up to perform. (FYI, we've never had two months in a row previously!) Also, we had several members at the KIDabra convention a week ago...but most were working at it! While Tim Pressley got to enjoy it and John Hopper saw a couple pieces, Barry Mitchell lectured and performed, Tom Vorjohan emceed the final Gala Show, and Michael Messing had twenty different photo sessions. Way to go, Ring 58.

A lot of us were ready for tonight's theme: Lying Magic. Tom Vorjohan opened with a Lie Detector routine for kids, but our first-time guest Evan Bishop played along just fine. Later, Barry Mitchell talked about the timing and scripting that should go along with a good lie detector routine, and he sung the praises of California magician, Robert Baxt. Michael Priestap used a homophone of a LION, and had a stuffed one help him determine the chosen card. Mike Stratman did his version of the classic Cut & Restored Rope where it just looked like he was lying. Michael Messing showed his routine with a color changing deck where he asks the audience if they could tell he lied.

Bill Osburn did an impressive Clairvoyant Dice routine and couldn't help but show us the beautiful electronics involved. Jack Wilson did Voice Print from Lorayne's Best of Friends Vol 1 with the cards forming their own lie detector. Cayden Goodman got a good discussion going with a couple tubes and a ball that mysteriously switched between the tubes. John Hopper took a paper dollar and into a bag and changed it to ninety-seven cents, to which Cayden said, "Three cents is not much," and John replied, "It is when you're old!" (Best line of the night!) Harold Whipps did a non-gimmicked version of Sidewalk Shuffle that had several of us shaking our heads.

For the Open Mic portion of the evening, Steve Jerden brought in a version of Dean's Box, and had Tom Vorjohan walk him through his routine. Mike Stratman had recently wrote down highlights and funny stories from past I.B.M. conventions including floods, Amy Carter, a death, a missing first lady, and a hotel fire...some funny, some sad, and some jaw dropping. For Show & Tell, Tim Pressley impressed us with a remote-control gizmo that made it look like steam coming from a tea pot. Mike Stratman showed the new magic-themed postage stamps. Our Move of the Month was "False Cuts" and Michael Priestap, Barry Mitchell, Michael Messing, Evan Bishop and Tom Vorjohan all contributed.

Several tricks were taught at the end of the night. Mike Stratman went over his Cut and Restored Rope repeating gag, Tom Vorjohan did a lying card trick that works on the phone from Semi

Automatic 2, and Evan Bishop showed and explained a revelation of two chosen prediction cards. It was another great night of magic!

Tom Vorjohan