

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

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Our summer months of June and July were full of magic for our Ring members including six that attended the I.B.M. convention in Scottsdale: Tom Vorjohan was a Co-Chairman, Michael Messing was the official photographer, Mike & Darlene Stratman are former International President and First Lady, Ed Ripley competed in Close-up, and our treasurer, Jack Wilson, got to relax and have fun. It was a great convention!

The June meeting had nine members and one family guest attend...and everyone did some magic! Magic Bill (Osburn) played with his Tesla coil, and pulled red, white & blue silks from a dollar. Bill Sturgis made red, white & blue ropes melt into one. Mike Stratman displayed the same colors in a square frame and one selected silk jumped out. Ray Adams dismembered himself with a sword before piercing a selected and signed card. Michael Priestap showed a Russian medal and talked about his grandfather in WWII, then performed Cereal Killer with a packet of eight cards. Tim Pressley brought a Mysto Magic book he got at an estate sale and did a trick from it with balls and a cup. Bill Osburn also shared three AbraCorndabra coins he picked up from Facebook. Christine Maentz did a Haunted Deck presentation with the deck moving to find the selected card. Jack Wilson stumbled upon The Boomerang Rubber Band trick and some history from our own Don Cox. Ray Adams discussed the audio book by Adam Savage (of Myth Busters) called “Every Tool’s a Hammer” and how it has motivated him. Finally, Mike Stratman talked about his Abbott’s Sympathetic Silks plight and was able to do the trick for us after 35 years, and Ray Adams did a fun mindreading effect that involved a bill, a token, a concertina, and a metal detector...and that’s why you shouldn’t miss a meeting!

In July, eighteen members and three guests attended our dinner that was provided by John Bloor’s daughter, Anne, to celebrate the life of her father who had just passed. Mike Stratman delivered a great Broken Wand ceremony, and the club also unanimously voted to donate \$100 to the University of Tennessee’s Rugby club in honor of John. He was a wonderful and faithful member of our Ring for decades and he will be sorely missed.

The magic that followed was fantastic and lasted nearly two hours! Our theme was “Stretchy Magic” and Bill Osburn, Bill Sturgis, Mike Stratman, Christine Maentz, Evan Bishop, Michael Messing, Cayden Goodman and Steve Jerden, Michael Priestap, Jack Wilson, Andrew Hyder, Tom Vorjohan, and especially Ray Adams ALL stretched it to the max! Kyle Copeland showed a copy of the Gilbert Chemical Magic book that John Bloor gave him at the second Ring meeting Kyle attended. Tim Pressley showed a new rising and jumping paint brush he has created. Ray Adams also gave a quick talk on the Trick Brain. Christine Maentz brought a new Luna Puppet that was hysterical, Andrew Hyder talked about hanging out with Diamond Jim last week, and Tom Vorjohan taught his family-involved version of Barrie Richardson’s Impromptu ACAN.

Tom Vorjohan