

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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As we start the 2020 year, we have 35 members in the Ring which includes seven Lifetime Members and one youth member. However, at our February meeting we nominated and unanimously agreed to add John Hopper as our eighth Lifetime Member! Other than that, we spent most of our business meeting discussing some details about the Winter Carnival of Magic which was just two weeks away, then we started doing some magic!

For February, we had fifteen members and one family guest, and our youngest member, Cayden Goodman, along with some help from his grandfather, Steve Jerden worked in tandem to produce a hat full of sponge balls from an empty black collapsible cylinder. Then we brainstormed some ideas with Steve to be able to do this from a Dollar Store top hat. Bill Osburn took our “Freak Show” theme in a different direction as he had Santa Clause find a selected card! (This is one of those “had-to-have-been-there” moments!) Bill Sturgis did a more conventional freak show effect as he passed eight spikes through a tube...that was on his forearm.

Our illustrious president, Michael Priestap, showed off a set of English coins from 1967, and later showed an estate-sale find that was the perfect container for a packet trick that he did with a vanishing though of card. Ray Adams then went about as freakish as we could bear...and stuck not just one but TWO chopsticks up his nose in a Double Blockhead! Jennifer was the lucky one to help him extract them. Kyle Copeland brought us back to magic that can be shared with a version of “Will the Cards Match” using business cards torn in half. He then taught the group.

With a new method up his sleeve, Ed Ripley did a fun Needle thru Balloon using a coat hanger and some whimsical music that was perfect. Tom Vorjohan then handed out some of the pens and flashlights that will be given to the Winter Carnival guests before he did a freakish penetration of his tongue with a ballpoint pen. Tim Pressley used a syringe to make a sponge ball go from his hand to a spectator’s. Jack Wilson was back and showed us the Vanishing Inc. boxed set that he ordered with four or five books from the lectures at the Costa Rica Retreat last May.

We were having too much fun after almost an hour and a half of magic sharing, and Bill Osburn showed us a deck of cards he found at his house that allowed a chosen card to seemingly jump out of a sealed card box. We were amazed at the craftsmanship that Ray Adams has been showing in some costume and prop building; the most recent were some resin castings of very magical-looking wands in a Harry Potter sort of style. Ray may have to start selling these! Tom Vorjohan concluded the evening with “Sanitized” using a Purell bottle, then he taught a Lie Detector card effect that he recently read from an Ed Solomon book, and Kyle Copeland then taught a perfect force to the group. Lots of fun!

Tom Vorjohan