

The subject of our June meeting was “Self Working Wonders” hosted by Dan Miller. The performing order of the evening was alphabetical – by last name. A unique decision to say the least.

Our first performer of the evening was, as it always is, alphabetical or otherwise, Don Engstrand. Don performed what many magicians believe to be the best card trick ever, Out of This World. Wayne Haarhaus, who, by his own admission, hates self-working magic because it never works for him. He performed a magnetized pencil bit and a vanishing quarter. Bill Krupskas followed Wayne with his rendition of Al Koran’s Five Star Prediction. He had another effect lined up but the membership was actually more interested in Bill explaining one of the principles used to accomplish the effect as performed. Josh Kurzban followed that with an automatic one-handed knot-in-rope effect. Bob Lusthaus was up next and he demonstrated an item where you spell the spectator’s name and end up at his selected card. The recently returned from Fechter’s, Mike Maione followed with an item from Royal Road to Card Magic called Tantalizer. Our newest member, Sal Mannuzza was up next and he performed his version of Al Leech’s A Dishonest Mistake. Terry Oberman was next and he made a selected card disappear from the deck and re-appear inside a sealed FedEx envelope. Nick Paul then presented a high impact, self-working effect called Kaleidoscope Cards. Bill White followed with his performance of a poor man’s Spirit Nut. You see, instead of using a nut, Bill used a book of matches that could not be opened as it was stapled shut. To end things up, Ziggy performed a lie detector effect using a nine card packet. But we still had more time on the clock so MC Dan Miller performed a trick that has a few names but I call it Die of Destiny by Marc DeSouza. Last, but certainly not least, Ed Hass sat in the back of the room and demonstrated a card divination that could be performed over the telephone. Great job! Hey, I know that the last two performers were not in alphabetical order, so shoot me. A bunch of people then went to the diner and another group hung around the parking lot for about forty-five minutes shooting the breeze. Do you know which group I was in?

Bill Krupskas