



The Greater

Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club

Founded 1935

American Philatelic Society - Chapter 18 * American Air Mail Society - Chapter 18
Successor to the Philadelphia Stamp Club and The Collector's Club of Philadelphia

Sept.2020 Newsletter - Volume 8, Issue 9

Next Meeting - ?

Special Edition #2

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic

There Will Be **NO** Stamp Club Meetings Until Further Notice

President Steve Washburne Has Stepped Down

.....I herewith resign the office of the President of GPS&CC.

The Collectors Club of Philadelphia was founded 29 years ago by Dan Siegel, Chip Blumberg, and myself, but it's time to move on. I'll continue to be a member and will attend meetings when we have them. Please accept my apologies... and the club will survive.

Sincerely, Steve

Thank You For Your Help With Our Club

Many thanks go to Steve Washburne for being the President of the GPS & CC more than one time and for more years than we can count. Steve has now stepped down and hopefully will continue to enjoy his many travels and philatelic pursuits. We are currently looking for someone to finish out the presidency for remainder of 2020.



Many thanks also go to Vince Costello for his many years of devotion to the GPS & CC while being our treasurer. Sadly, Vince and his wife have moved away from the Philadelphia area and they now live where they can enjoy beautiful Bellefonte and close proximity to APS headquarters. We hope to see you when you are in town.

ONCE AGAIN WE ARE IN NEED OF A PRESIDENT - IF INTERESTED, CONTACT PHIL

OFFICERS

President

?

Vice President & Programs
Phil Russell
russell516@comcast.net

Treasurer

Bruce Marsden
bmarsden@verizon.net

Secretary

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Show & Events

Alan Warren
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Stamp Club Meeting Address

GPS and CC

Giant Supermarket
Community Rm,
315 York Rd.
Willow Grove, PA

Stamp Club Address

GPS and CC

PO Box 446,
Willow Grove, PA
19090-0446

Meet Our New Treasurer

We welcome Vince's replacement, Bruce Marsden, who has kindly volunteered to take over as treasurer. Bruce's vocation was based in financial organizations and he is also the current Treasurer of the American Philatelic Society. He also belongs to the Collector's Club of New York and the Westfield Stamp Club in NJ. Thanks for stepping up, Bruce, and we look forward to seeing more of you.

Meet Our Newest Member

Noah Beitler of Lafayette Hill. Noah became very interested in philately when he was given his great grandfather's brother's collection/ accumulation a few months before the pandemic. This relative had lived the early part of his life in Lithuania and had collected worldwide cancelled stamps. Of particular interest to Noah is the collection of Israel and of Poland 1930s-1940s.



The accumulation came to Noah fairly disorganized and many stamps were hinged. He is doing a lot of soaking and sorting, organizing and identifying these stamps as he puts them in stock pages. Identifying the stamps has been his biggest hurdle and at present he is using the help of a computer program called EzStamp, which has stamp data from up to 279 countries.

Noah is a senior at the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, formerly Akiba Hebrew Academy, in Bryn Mawr. Last fall, he also attended The Alexander Muss High School in Israel which is a three month study abroad program in Israel with the majority of his class.

He also enjoys running cross country track, video games and planes & aviation through computer flight simulation.

From The Vice President

Growing up in Natick, MA, I collected stamps as a teenager in the late 1940s like many others, but at that time, never considered collecting post cards and old letters or joining a stamp club. Much later (1969-1974), I met Mr. Benson, a retired petroleum engineer, who was working in the Chemistry Dept. at C. W. Post College, Brookville on Long Island, where I was teaching and doing research. He showed me a binder with 40 or 50 early Boston letters, each with a straight-line BOSTON hand-stamp which he purchased from Edward J. Craig in Newport, RI who sold "15th to 18th Century Manuscripts". As I understand it, Ed obtained the Samuel and William Vernon (they were 18th century Newport Merchants) manuscript collection from his wife, Valentine Vernon Craig. I bought several old letters from Ed Craig with early Boston hand-stamps starting from 1742. Over the years, I have built up my collection on the War of 1812 material and my fairly extensive ship letter collection. I find the content of many letters very interesting.

After I retired in 2004 from Yardney Technical Products, Pawcatuck, CT after a 20 year career working on the design and production of batteries for NASA and the Navy, Cyndi and I moved to New Hope, PA to be closer to our daughter and her family. That provided Cyndi with many baby-sitting hours. I soon joined the Coryell's Ferry Stamp Club and the GPS&CC, which has exposed me to many very knowledgeable stamp and postal history collectors. Jim Walker introduced me to Phil Cane (Cane Farm Furniture, Rosemont, NJ) who has many binders filled with old letters and other manuscripts. I have bought many letters from him with interesting content over the years.

I miss the monthly cocktails and dinner at the Willow Inn.

Phil Russell - Vice President & Acting President



Minutes From Our Last Meeting : 2-18-20

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Phil Russell at 7:05 PM with 11 members present. Vince Costello showed a DVD from the APS titled "Number Ones of the World" by Svend Yort. The DVD did not require a laptop computer as there is a DVD player in the meeting room.

Several members presented Show and Tell items. Ron Hill described the attempt by Germany to claim the Norwegian Dronning Maud Land in Antarctica as a German territory by sending an expedition there in the late 1930s. After the war there was a Norwegian-British-Swedish expedition to the area. Ron showed a book of related photographs. Ron also discussed his program on Tasmania that is available for viewing on the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library site.

Bruce Marsden reported the difficulty he had in finding a cover showing a 1950s Switzerland definitive paying the 3 centimes rate for the blind. He finally located one on Delcampe where he was the successful bidder.

Richard Brent showed copies of advertising covers he recently acquired. One showed the business of plumbing supplies and engines that Mr. Buick established. He later sold his business to General Motors.

Phil Russell showed two letters written in Brazil that dealt with the flagship *USS Lancaster* when it was sta-

tioned in Rio de Janeiro.

David Stevenson showed issues of Basutoland with overprint varieties, and also passed around several gold sovereigns of Great Britain, depicting Saint George and the Dragon on the reverse. The first one created was from 1817 for George III. David also showed examples from 2017 and 2018.

The plan for the club library, which Vince Costello can no longer store as he is moving to Bellefonte, is for club members to request any titles that were on the recently distributed list, and then Vince will offer the list to APRL. If they select any items, Vince will deliver them to the library. All the leftovers will be turned over to member Bob Rufe who will put them on a "freebie" table at DELPEX.

Since Vince is also club treasurer he is stepping down from that post. Bruce Marsden volunteered to assume treasurer responsibilities and was unanimously approved by the members. His vocation was based in financial organizations and he is also current Treasurer of the American Philatelic Society.

Alan Warren
Secretary Pro Tem

Zooming into the Future

Since we cannot safely meet at this time and the Giant Super Market is not opening its Community Rooms to the public for now, the Club is seriously considering using the services of Zoom for our meetings like many other clubs are doing. By asking around, we have had offers from several members to help arrange this. And by polling our members, we find that quite a few use Zoom for business, for family and friend's visits and to get us through the pandemic while at home. Through Zoom we can have speakers, Show &

Tell, short business meetings & reports and just chat with each other. Hopefully we can let you know more as we work to accomplish this.

This may encourage members who are not familiar with this technology to ask those more familiar with it to help them set this up on their own devices. In any case it is a good alternative to having no face to face meetings at all.

**NEEDED: A NOMINEE TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT FOR THE 2021/2022 TERM
AND TO FINISH OUT THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 2020
CONTACT PHIL RUSSELL, NORM SHACHAT OR ALAN WARREN**

Happening Things About The Club

I hope that all our GPS & CC members are safe and well. There are several issues to bring to the attention of the membership:

1. Our President, Steve Washburne, has resigned, so we need a volunteer to take over as president for the remainder of this year. And...
2. We need a volunteer to run for president for the 2021 through 2022 term. Nominations are usually NOW and elections in Nov. If you would be interested, please call Norm Shachat or anyone on the Board.
3. Live meetings at the Giant Super Market will continue to be cancelled until it is safe to resume them, but...
4. Can you do Zoom? We may be able to use Zoom to hold meetings as other clubs are doing. We have found a volunteer to set this up and be host in the near future. Please send me a brief REPLY if you can or can not do Zoom.

Letty Moon
Secretary of the GPS & CC

Special APS Membership Offer

Currently the APS has a special offer good until 12/31/2021 to encourage membership. New members get 16 months of APS membership for the price of 12 months. That's four months free! To take advantage of this offer, use code VSS2020 when signing up online, by mail or by phone. Go to www.stamps.org to see the many benefits of membership.

**So in retrospect, in 2015,
not a single person got
the answer right to "Where
do you see yourself 5
years from now?"**

A Note To Dayton Stamp Club Members

Maybe our club members can help also

Dayton Stamp Club Members – We Need YOUR Help!!

October is Stamp Collecting Month. Some of the Dayton Stamp Club (DSC) members have accepted a project to introduce stamp collecting to young people. Youth organizations were offered the opportunity to participate in stamp collecting activities. Some troop leaders can follow and complete the activities independently. For those youth groups needing expert help, we will be matching volunteer DSC members with the various groups. The Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts will be involved through their troops.

What we need from Dayton Stamp Club Members:

- Used and mint stamps
- Your time sorting stamps and putting them in glassines
- Stamps supplies such as
 - o Stamp tongs
 - o Hinges
 - o Glassines
 - o Magnifying glass
 - o Soaking tub
- Making and printing stamp pages



This might be a welcomed change of pace if you have been locked in your home for the past six months. You can do it from home while watching your favorite sporting events that is not on TV.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER STAMPS, SUPPLIES, AND/OR TIME, please email or call Bill Smith. Wesjemail@gmail.com or 937-344-3155.

If you have time to put stamps in glassines but do not have a bunch of stamps or glassines, we will get what you need to your doorstep -- a box of stamps and/or glassines.

We need to have the packets put together for the kids by the middle of October.

Please let me know! Hope to hear from you soon.

Prepare A Virtual Meeting Calendar

By Alan Warren

Just because we are in quarantine during the pandemic and unable to physically meet at the Giant's community center, does not mean that we can't get "together" for meetings, talks, show-and-tell and other purposes. The solution is to use the devices we now have in the computer age.

In addition to desktop and laptop computers one can also use tablets, smart cell phones, and possibly other devices. There are two major meeting types. One is the Webinar which is usually for a formal presentation with many attendees. For these you can hear the speaker but are muted so that you don't interrupt the talk.

The other popular type is the Zoom meeting where you can see and hear the other attendees (usually smaller groups) and are able to talk and ask questions or exchange ideas. Many desktop computers do not have a camera; however, you can still sign into the webinar or Zoom meeting and even speak when permitted to do so. With a laptop that has a microphone and a camera you can see yourself and the other attendees.

We are in the process of determining which members of the GPS&CC know how to use these meeting tools so that we can hold our own meetings as many other clubs are doing already. When you receive an email invitation to participate in a Zoom meeting, there will be a request to sign up, which will trigger software being downloaded so that you can participate. You can also download the app in advance by going to <https://zoom.us/download> and download the Zoom Client for Meetings.

The best way to learn what is available from a society or philatelic organization is to go to their web site and look for information about upcoming Virtual events. The American Philatelic Society held many of its Summer Seminar sessions in June using these approaches, and they replaced the Great American Stamp Show that was to take place in Hartford, Conn., in August with a Virtual Stamp Show.

There were meetings, formal talks, a dealers' bourse, and exhibits. The last were not judged because the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors and the APS Committee on the Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judges are working on guidelines for such exhibits and how to judge them. Even some soci-

eties held virtual open membership or board meetings that anyone could attend.

The APS has an ongoing series of virtual meetings called Stamp Chats. Details are on the APS site. The programs are one hour long and one or two are scheduled each week. Past Stamp Chats have been on such topics as Dinosaurs on Stamps, Collecting Hawaii, Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart, and use of the Prexies during WW II. These past programs can still be watched as they are now on the APS You tube channel. <https://stamps.org/>

The Pennsylvania Postal History Society recently presented a fantastic talk by GPS&CC member Vern Morris on Philadelphia Local Posts, showing many rare and unique items. The program was recorded and may be posted on the PaPHS web site. However, many of us attended the Zoom presentation "live" and were able to ask questions of the speaker. <http://paphs.org/>

The Philatelic Society of Lancaster County holds Zoom meetings the second and fourth Wednesdays each month from 6:30 to 8 PM. A list of upcoming meeting topics is found at <https://lcps-stamps.org/>. The Brandywine Valley Stamp Club meets the second Wednesday each month (yes, I know it is a conflict!), and their next meeting can be found at <https://brandywinevalleystampclub.com/>

The Collectors Club of New York offers more formal presentations every week or two, also on Wednesdays at 6-8 PM (conflict again!) and future programs are listed at <https://www.collectorsclub.org/>.

The best way to prepare your own virtual meeting calendar is to visit the various web sites and jot down the dates, times, and topics that interest you. More important—ask each site to add your email address to the list to be notified of future meetings. These emails typically have a link to register for the event (no cost) and you will be notified before the meeting by an email with a connecting link that takes you to the webinar or Zoom meeting. I generally like to go to the meeting about 10-15 minutes before it is scheduled to begin to be sure the connections work. You might also be able to chat with the other early attendees for a few minutes before the program starts.

Welcome to the World of Virtual Philatelic Meetings!

Awards & Recognition



Mark Schwartz received a large gold, the Garfield-Perry award for best U.S. exhibit, and the show Single Frame grand award at the G-P March Party in Cleveland earlier this year for his "Boston's Use of the 1847 Issue." He also took a gold and the American First Day Cover Society award with his "The 5¢ Virginia Dare Stamp of 1937 – A Traditional First Day Exhibit."

Since the COVID pandemic, most national shows have been cancelled. Those that have occurred or executed "virtually" have not had APS accredited exhibit competitions.

Bill Schultz has become a new agent for the US and Canadian market for the David Feldman International Auctioneers of Geneva, Switzerland. Congratulations, Bill!

Clever Paraprosdokians

(A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence is unexpected and oft times very humorous.)

If I had a dollar for every girl who found me unattractive, they'd eventually find me very attractive.

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom, until they're flashing behind you.

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool, so I gave him a glass of water.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

I'm great at multi-tasking: I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

Take my advice, I'm not using it.

Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were.

Looking For Auxiliary Markings

A book is being written and edited by Bill Schultz, Alfred Frohlich and Jasmin Smith to be called "The Pointing Hand Covers." If you have covers with such auxiliary marking to add to the 1000 different scans which they presently have, send a scan of your cover to Bill Schultz at bill@patriciaschultz.com. Owners of covers used will have their names acknowledged in the book. Proceeds from book sales will be donated to a philatelic charity.



An example of pointing hand cover...A very funny one!

Postal History Symposium Going Virtual

The theme of the Postal History Symposium on Oct. 26th-30th will be Postal Innovation of the Classic Era: Evolution Leading to Modernization. Due to the pandemic, the Symposium will now use modern technology to become a virtual event. Virtual presentations on the Postal Innovation theme will be hosted by the APS and NPM. Members can listen to speakers from home using a computer or phone.



Photo of the year

It was considered the best photo of this century. A lioness and her cub were crossing the Savannah but the heat was excessive and the cub was in great difficulty walking. An elephant realized that the cub would die and carried him in his trunk to a pool of water walking beside his mother. And we call them wild animals. It's a great lesson for mankind.

What do you see?

