The Greater
Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club
Founded 1885

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

Oct.2020 Newsletter - Volume 8, Issue 10 **Next Face-to-Face Meeting - ?**

Special Edition #3

There Will Be NO In Person Stamp Club Meetings Until Further Notice

Our First ZOOM Meeting

The GPS & CC will be having its first meeting through ZOOM on Oct. 20th at 7:30. Our treasurer, Bruce Marsden, has set this up for us and it has been enthusiastically endorsed by our Club Officers and Committee Heads. On the next page is the ZOOM invitation with the address that you'll click on to join the meeting. I'll resend this to you on the day before the meeting as a reminder. Also, there are Bruce's very helpful directions for getting and using ZOOM which you can use on your computer. Or you can at least listen to the audio portion, by mobile phone.

Club & Member News

Our member, Steve Kennedy, was elected to be the President of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society. He has also been a director and webmaster for PAPHS. Steve enjoys collecting Philadelphia cancellations amongst many other things.

Save The Date

2020

Nov. 17th

the Dec. 15th Holiday Dinner,
as it was done in the past, is cancelled, but we can still enjoy a Zoom meeting with each other.

2021

Jan. 19th Feb. 16th Apr. 20th
May 18th Jun 15th

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

Smile

=I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.
=A cold seat in a public restroom is unpleasant. A warm seat in a public restroom is worse.
=Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.
=Don't irritate old people. The older we get the less "Life in prison" is a deterrent.
=I asked my wife if I was the only one she had been with. She said yes, all the others were nines and tens.

OFFICERS

President
?

Vice President & Programs
Phil Russell
russell516@comcast.net

Treasurer
Bruce Marsden
bmarsden@verizon.net

Secretary
Letty Moon
lettymoon@comcast.net

Newsletter
Ed Weisberg
edweisberg10@gmail.com

Show & Events
Alan Warren
alanwar@comcast.net

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

Zoom Connection Instructions

Bruce Marsden, our treasurer, is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Greater Philadelphia Stamp & CC
Time: Oct 20, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86524347655?pwd=bzVUQjNldE1EQWtFTytMd0JIamE4Zz09

Meeting ID: 865 2434 7655
Passcode: 063496

This brief note is a guide for stamp club members invited to participate in a Zoom meeting for their stamp club for the first time.

First off, if you do not have a computer connected to the internet, you can still attend a Zoom meeting by telephone as if it were a conference call. You will be able to hear all the meeting participants but you will (obviously) miss out on being able to see their pictures on a computer screen.

If you do have a recent computer with a built-in camera and microphone you should be able to fully participate in the meeting as Zoom will transmit your voice and your camera image to the meeting participants. (If you have audio difficulties on your computer, you can always dial in by telephone.

Or you can watch this brief YouTube video:
https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

or, if you are adventurous, you can go directly to a test meeting at:
http://zoom.us/test
This is probably enough to get you started.

What to expect:
Your stamp club meeting will display your own image from your computer's camera as well as images of the other attendees. Zoom automatically arranges the images into a variety of formats as large as a 5x5 box of 25 attendees with the person speaking highlighted by a yellow border. Meetings with more than 25 attendees will have multiple windows of participants that can be scrolled through. People who are shy about exposing their messy bookshelves or unmade beds can set a virtual background in Zoom by selecting their image of choice.

As you could expect, if everyone speaks at once chaos will follow, so even. More so than in an in person meeting it is important to politely wait for a break in conversation to introduce yourself to express your thoughts. If someone is chairing the meeting, you can get their attention by raising you hand on the screen, or for some meetings by clicking on a raised hand at the bar that appears at the bottom of the Zoom window if you move your mouse there. And when you are not speaking, it is polite to mute your microphone to eliminate background noise and interference. Your mute button will appear when you move your mouse to your own image.

Sidebar "conversations" are facilitated through a text-based chat window that can be opened by clicking on the chat icon at the bottom of the Zoom window. Your chat message can be shared with everyone or just a selected participant.

What are the benefits to attending a stamp club Zoom meeting?
While the Zoom meeting is not the same as face to face meetings, there is still an opportunity for fellowship with our club members and collectors.

Presenters can give talks about their collecting interests using the screen sharing feature of Zoom to display their Powerpoint or other presentation forms.

Clubs can even watch videos together for joint discussion afterwards, for example the Exploring Stamps series on YouTube.

And just as auction houses are now conducting their auctions with online bidding, club auctions could conduct their auctions with live "face to face" bidding in a Zoom meeting.

The main thing is, let's have fun and learn!

-Bruce Marsden

Minutes From Our Last Board Meeting : 9-15-20

A practice Zoom meeting was held by the GPS & CC Board and Committee Chairmen to test whether it would be feasible for the Club to hold virtual meetings since face to face meetings are not possible at this time. It has been noted that many other stamp clubs have moved in this direction during the pandemic. Present for the meeting were Phil Russell-VP, Bruce Marsden-Treasurer, Letty Moon-Secretary, Alan Warren-Calendar & Events, Ed Weisberg-Newsletter Editor and Norm Shachat-Nominating Committee. Bruce has volunteered to set up Zoom for our Club and act as Host.

After minor problems starting the meeting, we discussed the logistics involved with a group the size of our Club's and how meetings could be run. Bruce explained how videos could be shown and how speakers as well as members could use "screen share" to show items to the whole group. The Board decided to schedule our first general Club meeting on Tuesday evening, Oct. 20th at 7:30. Bruce will send the invitation to the scheduled Zoom meeting to Letty to distribute by email to the membership. Letty will also announce to the membership that we will try Zoom so that more will be able to get Zoom beforehand.

Our new treasurer, Bruce, is involved in opening a new checking account for the Club at Santander Bank. He is working on gathering the required signatures and completing paperwork. The Board approved moving our account to a bank more convenient to him.

Nominations and elections for Board positions for the 2021-22 term were discussed. At present we need a volunteer to finish out the term of the President for the last few months of this year. Normally nominations take place in the fall and elections are held during the Nov. meeting. The President's position is the only one which needs to be filled. If we do not get a volunteer, other alternatives may be considered, such as having a committee or the Board members run the Club until we are able to resume face to face meetings.

The fall is the time that we generally collect dues for the following year's membership renewal. The suggestion was made to suspend the collecting of Club dues for 2021 since we cannot have regular meetings, our expenses are minimal and the amount in our bank account is more than adequate at present. The Board approved this measure.

Respectfully submitted, *Letty Moon*

From The Vice President

The letter with S/L BOSTON hand-stamp shown below is the only one I have in my collection (compared with the 40 to 50 shown to me by Mr. Benson a long time ago).

The letter was written in Charleston, S. C. on March 23, 1796 by Richard Cutts (shipping merchant) and sent by ship to Thomas Cutts, Merchant in Pepperrellborough, Massachusetts. The letter arrived 10 April 1796 as indicated by the dated circle and charged 4ct ship fee rate by the Act of 1792 and 12½ct for 100 to 150 miles inland for total of 16½ct, Sh 16½, (See page 27 in Boston Postal Markings to 1890 by Blake and Davis for further details).

Last Sunday (10/4) I saw Phil Cane. He had just purchased the entire stock of a onetime stamp-dealer . The collection filled an entire room in one of his buildings. His other postal history items from the mid-1700s and other ephemera make it an interesting place to visit.

Phil Russell

Collectors Club

Presents

The Virtual Philatelic Program Series

Wednesday, October 21st, 5:30 pm EDT

Daniel Piazza, Washington, DC

Baseball and Philately from the Vault of the National Postal Museum

We would like to invite you to attend our live, virtual program, scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 21st, at 5:30 pm EDT. Our presenter will be Daniel Piazza, Chief Curator of Philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

The presentation will provide an exclusive preview of the upcoming exhibition, Baseball: America's Home Run. The talk will feature archival and stamp production material that has never been shown before – ample reason to skip Game Two of the World Series! This will be followed by a brief discussion of NPM news and ways to connect with the museum's content even while it is closed to the public during the pandemic.

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

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 societies 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!

REPEAT OF LAST ISSUE'S STORY