

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
 Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park
Irving Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
 Garden & Arts Center, 906 Senter
Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
 Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER MEMBER



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May 2015

Been There - Done That (Falkland Islands)

By Ray Cartier



The Falkland Islands are located in the southern Atlantic Ocean about 300 miles east of the southern Argentinean coast. As a [British overseas territory](#), the Falklands have internal, and the United Kingdom takes responsibility for their defense. With an area of 4,700 square miles and a population of only 2,932, it is comprised of Falkland, West and 776 smaller islands with the capitol, Stanley on the East Island.

At various times, the islands have had French, British, Spanish, and Argentine settlements. Britain reasserted rule in 1833, although Argentina maintains its claim to the Islands. Negotiations between the two countries dragged on for decades. In 1981 the Thatcher government, concerned at the expense of maintaining the Falklands in an era of budget cuts, considered transferring sovereignty to Argentina but their talks ended late that year.

In April 1982 Argentina invaded the Falklands, digging in hundreds of foxholes and planting almost 20,000 mines. A brief two month war routed the Argentines. The residents, mostly favoring the British, were happy with the outcome. We saw two small groups of



... continued on Page 6 ...

How To Ruin Stamps 101

By Peter Elias

There are many ways to ruin stamps. I ran across one of the most serious offenders recently when breaking down an old album containing stock pages. The previous owner / collector had used "strip mounts". These are usually open on one end, and to keep the stamps from sliding out sideways or falling out, they used cellophane tape to close the ends.

We all know what happens to cellophane tape after 10, 20 or more years: yellowing, drying out and leaching of the adhesive into paper causing discoloration or that "translucent" look. Where-ever the tape was in even slight contact with the stamps at the edges of the mounts, it had the results shown (see arrows highlighting the darker splotchy areas; the rest of the yellow area is actually on the outside of the mounts).



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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor (news@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

Stamping Around is published monthly by the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Material in this [newsletter](#) may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the source is acknowledged.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

2015 - 2016 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Mike Smith
First Vice-President – Skip Ely
Second Vice-President – Richard Hildebrandt
Secretary – Benedict Termini
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Alliene Franklin Ralph Poore Ken Wills

Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area. Dues are \$12 per year. For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or e-mail us at:

info@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

Mid-Cities Stamp Club
P.O. Box 2158
Arlington, TX 76004-2158

or visit: <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

Coming Attractions

2015

- APR. 28** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: “How To Put Together An Exhibit” by Ben Termini
- MAY 6** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Semi-Annual Auction
- MAY 8-10** **Texas Coin Shows**
Grapevine Convention Center, \$3 admission
- MAY 20** **MCSC—IRVING Meeting**
Program: TBD
- MAY 26** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: “Atkinson Unhinged” by Gene Atkinson
- MAY 29-31** **TX Numismatic Assoc. Annual Coin & Currency Show, Arlington Convention Ctr.**
- JUN. 3** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Giant Mixture Pick
- JUN. 17** **MCSC—IRVING Meeting**
Program: TBD
- JUN. 19-20** **OKPEX 2015 Stamp Show**
Reed Conf. Ctr, 5800 Will Rogers Rd, Midwest City, OK 73110
Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-4

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Since I am somewhat active in many areas regarding computers, software, etc, I usually try to inform members about some of the things that are going on “out there” (i.e.: the wild and wacky world of the internet and emails). Scamming has been going on for a long time, well before the advent of the internet and emails. It is now just a lot easier to do this, it's a lot easier to send a million emails to scam people (such as the infamous Nigerian 409-scams) than to send that amount of letters by mail!

And it is not just email messages with nefarious messages that are the problem, it is that some emails have nasty attachments (usually masquerading as picture files, invoices, etc) that can drop a payload on your PC (or Mac and in some cases now even your “android” based phones and tablets), these can do everything from holding all your document files hostage to covertly tracking all key-strokes that you enter at websites (such as usernames and passwords) and then forwarding to those “someone”..

None of this is specifically targeted to stamp collectors and philately in general (yet!), but pretty much most of us use a PC (or Mac / tablet / phone) to get on the internet or read our emails. So be vigilant! Don't click on that website link if you're not 100% sure it's from whom it says it is (always compare the link name to what appears when you hover the mouse over that link!), and don't open email attachments if you're not sure (“invoices” inside a “zip” file attachment is usually a good reason to be cautious!). On page 4, see some of the examples of messages that I have received at the club email accounts. So let's all practice “safe computing”! Feel free to contact me if you have questions about these type of items!

Members in the News

Peter Elias contributed photos and information for the “Rudolph, the Holidays Issue for APC Postal Kiosks” article in issue 35 (January 2015) of “Variable”, pages 39-41. “Variable” is the dual Spanish/English language journal of the Spanish collecting group “Ateeme”, which specializes in “variable rate postage stamps” such as those issued by postal kiosks.

Peter Elias wrote 2 articles for the Spring 2015 (Vol. 69, Issue 1, Whole Nr. 307) issue of the Meter Stamp Society “Quarterly Bulletin”: “Forgeries or Credit Card Fraud” and “Unlisted Spanish ATM Stamp Varieties Found”

Peter Elias wrote an article entitled “APC Kiosk Conversion” in the April 2015 issue of the “American Philatelist”.

Errata

In the April 2015 issue (print issue only), on the masthead, the issue number was given as “3”, it should have been “4”. The online (PDF) versions of the newsletter were corrected though.

Secretary's Report

By Ben Termini



New Members Reinstatements:

Joe Jeter

Membership Summary – April 1, 2015

Membership as of March 12, 2015	108
New Members	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	()
Resignations	()
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of April 1, 2015	109

Wanted to Buy or Trade

Wanted to buy or trade for: Worldwide unusual EFOs, postal counterfeits, Odd US 20th century auxiliary markings, US 1934 and 1935 Christmas Seals on and off cover and publicity material, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contingents, and any other US philatelic material with an interesting story. John Hotchner, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or jmhstamp@verizon.net 2/15

My general worldwide commemoratives for your foreign revenue stamps (on or off document, preferably "on"!). Trade ratio depends on what you have, can range from 10:1 to 25:1. Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 3/15

WANTED: U.S. Liberty Series precancels. Unsorted, on paper, quantities okay. Contact Gene Atkinson at atkinson@our-town.com. 4/15

Circus Poster stamps on cover. Will pay 50¢ each for those with light cancels. Ken Aldridge 6/14

Postally used "ATM" stamps (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Peter Elias, info@stvincentstamps.com 8/14

Not mailed - against the law

By Peter Elias



Today (April 6), I found this card in my mailbox. That is illegal and probably a federal offense!

First, to my knowledge, no one other than the mail delivery

person or the homeowner (or others living at the address in question) may go into a person's mailbox. Putting advertising that has NOT been properly mailed (i.e.: postage paid!) into a private mailbox is thus also illegal, not to mention "postage avoidance". While I realize that small businesses (such as the people that canvas neighborhoods offering to mow your yard) don't always have the thousands of dollars to create and send a "direct mail" item, this is not the way to do it (... and neither is taping stuff to my front door or hanging it on my doorknob!).

Plus, there was personal mail in my mailbox when I saw this, so I don't know whether the person that put this business in my mailbox did that before or after the mailman was here, but whatever mail is in my mailbox is certainly nobody else's business!

Whenever I see something like this, I scan it and forward the scans to Sean Smith, a US Postal Inspector here in the DFW area at srsmith2@uspis.gov (you may remember Sean, he gave a presentation at one of our Arlington meetings a couple of years ago). Trust me, it's the right thing to do. What's to keep that person that puts these items into mailboxes from stealing mail that looks "inviting"?

Granbury Meeting Minutes March 24, 2015

By Gene Atkinson

Fifteen members and guests gathered at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Ct., in Granbury for the March 24 meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid Cities Stamp Club. Host Dave Stockbridge noted several tables of free publications, TEXPEX exhibits and for-sale materials.

SHOW & TEL:

- ◆ Joe Jeter brought a lot of "freebies" left over from a friend's estate, including stamps, album pages, Crystal Mounts, and more.
- ◆ Gene Atkinson had a stamp hinge tin as a "tease" for his May program.
- ◆ Ken Jones offered up a mailgram from Western Union, which he described as a "fancy telegram."
- ◆ Denny Ludlow showed some Mystic Stamp Co. first day covers.
- ◆ Jim Bailey brought a Russian envelope and an 1883 British mourning cover.
- ◆ Alliene Franklin had a slabbed Iwo Jima commemorative souvenir from TEXPEX. She and Stockbridge also organized a club trip to the Wineburgh Philatelic Library on Monday, April 20.

For a **PHILATELIC MOMENT**, Ken Jones discussed the Philatelic Foundation, its criteria for expertizing and the equipment it employs to determine alterations and authenticity.

Brian Smith challenged the club to identify Benin in his **WHAT'S MY NAME** segment.

Dave Stockbridge announced that the program schedule for 2015 is complete. The annual picnic will be the October meeting, with the program featuring a giant mixture-pick.

For the **BREAK**, Al Hull brought a caramel apple pecan cake as well as a cherry chocolate whipped cream pie. Both are an important part of a healthy diet.

In the **PROGRAM**, Ken Aldridge spoke of his interest in writing. Somewhat like stamp collecting, he said, writing novels always provides something to do, is relaxing and sometimes offers residuals. After *Triage of Troubles*, his first book, he continued the characters through three sequels, somewhat based on his own experiences in law enforcement. He discussed the process of publication and distribution and encouraged others to give writing a try.

In **CLOSING**, Paul Ashley, Brian Smith, Gene Atkinson, and Al Hull won door prizes.

Go Large Format

By Peter Elias

Most scanners that we work have a 8.5"x11" scanning area (and as a result can print from 8.5"x11" to 8.5"x14". That's fine for regular documents. But when needing to scan or print larger items, that is difficult or impossible. Scanning (or printing) a document that is up to 11" x 17" (double sheet size) has to either be done at a store (such as FedEx/Office, UPS Store, etc) or perhaps a library. All of which are either costly and/or inconvenient.

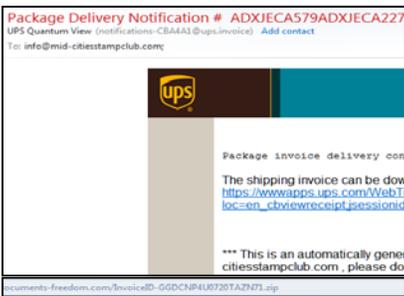
So I decided to go out and get a "large format" Epson WF-7620 scanner / printer (it also faxes and can duplex print). Now I can finally scan larger items (up to 11.7"x17") and also print 11"x17" stamp exhibit pages, as we are allowed to use these (8 will fit in an exhibit frame) in order to best optimize our exhibits, especially when dealing with larger items (full sheets, large covers), or where there would otherwise be wasted "white space" due to regular size paper. Of course storage for 11"x17" paper is an issue as there does not appear to be any binders or page protectors for that size easily available. I should have the printer set-up by the time you read this.

Club email Spam

by Peter Elias



The clincher is at the bottom (luckily removed by my antivirus software): a "js" (java script) file was attached, that if I tried to open it, would have done something nasty, like install malware on my PC!



Ok, which club member is not paying their tolls? Hopefully no one, but I've been getting several of these fake messages at the club email address. Of course, it's all b.s.; a real toll-road authority would not send messages from "klipzosupport.com", really??

Fake UPS messages also get sent to the club address. Even though the blue link appears to go to usps.com, it does not, instead to "documents-freedom.com" (at bottom), and the email address of "ups.invoice" (at top) is fake since there's no such thing as a ".invoice" domain!

Junk Snail Mail

By Peter Elias



Member Alliene Franklin submitted the image above. And it is true, reviewing the mail arriving at my home is about 99% junk mail (disclaimer: 100% of my philatelic mail is diverted to my PO Box...). Never-the-less... The "snail mail" image below I found while googling the term.

The statement on the stamp, "When it absolutely has to be there next month" should be appended with "...unless it is junk mail" (because that always seems to arrive on a rather timely basis!).



President's Letter

by Mike Smith

Last month I wrote that the Mid-Cities Stamp Club won a special award for one of our 1-frame club exhibits at TEXPEX in the TPA "Stamp Club Shootout". We just received our prize in the mail, a copy of the Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook, in recognition of our "wonderful and fun single frame exhibit". The catalog, now out of print but with copies selling for \$150, will be available in our library at the Bob Duncan Center. So thanks again to everybody who contributed a page to our exhibits.

Congratulations to Alliene Franklin and the Granbury Chapter of MCSC for organizing a field trip to the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library on April 20. Club field trips to events or facilities of philatelic interest are encouraged, but this is the first one to be organized in quite some time.

I would also like to thank Ray Cartier for taking over the job of Program Chairperson for the Arlington meetings from Judy Christmas. We had a new member join the club at the last Irving meeting, Geoff Owens, who is Vice President and Program Chairman of the Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society. Geoff has already suggested that we might consider exchanging speakers for some of our programs, so there are a number of new programs that could be scheduled in Arlington next year.

Every April, the City of Irving does some renovations on the Garden and Arts Building and we are moved to another facility, usually the larger Senter East Building. This April they moved us to the smaller Heritage Park Building, which has a capacity of 30 people but is available for half the rental fee of the Garden and Arts. We had our usual attendance of about a dozen members, and everybody there agreed that this would be a better venue for us to meet. Irving Parks and Recreation told me that there is less demand for this building than the Garden and Arts, so if the Board of Directors agrees we may change to that location for Irving meetings in 2016.



Great Britain, Scott #617-620. Images from <http://www.stampworld.com>

Stamp of the Month: Charles Dickens, the greatest novelist of the Victorian Era, left school when his father was sentenced to a debtor's prison. He still managed to edit a weekly journal for many years and wrote 15 novels and hundreds of short stories and articles, including the 1836 serial publication of the Pickwick Papers. Dickens died in June 1870 at the age of 58, and Great Britain issued Scott #617-620 one hundred years later with drawings from some of his best known novels.

Keep On Collecting! Mike

CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

All club members that are current with their dues payments are entitled to FREE ads in this space! Please send ad to: Peter Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427, give it to me at a meeting, or e-mail me at: peter@pcelias.com

For Sale

PhotoStamps, ZazzleStamps & PictureItPostage in a variety of different designs. For a listing of available designs and to purchase, go to <http://photostamps.webs.com> and use your credit card to purchase them (via PayPal). 1/06

3x US Scott Specialized Plate Block Albums (from 1900 - 1993); buy 1 or all 3. Also selling all of my **USA Stamp Collection (8 albums)**. One album or all 8 albums are for sale (very reasonable!). Please call Ken Dillard at (817) 468-8714 if interested. 11/11

Post-war German Federal Republic, German Berlin and DDR postally used on cover and used singles at a 70% discount from Scott's. Also FDC and ETB's. Will be happy to trade for Berlin material. Contact Paul Ashley, 817-426-5131 or p-ashley@att.net 6/13

US POSTAGE – from our huge surplus: 1c – 20c : 70% of FV; 21c – 50c : 80% of FV. Send any amount (min \$10), specify group (70%, 80%), and receive mix of values back in FV as indicated above. Clean, F/VF only. Plate or Zip block included for every \$10 remitted. Remit (check or MO) to: J. Myers, P. O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019. TX orders, add 8% sales tax. We cover return postage. S/H charges. Can also take PayPal (same terms). jasdmyers@earthlink.net 5/15

U.S. postcard collection, from UX3 to present, M, U & FDC. 489 total cards in 4" binder, CV \$650, will sell for \$200. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 5/14

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14



Jonathan Topper
11210 Steeplecrest Dr, Suite 120
Houston, TX 77065
www.topperstamps.com
Appraisals Stamps Covers Collections
USA Postal History: Military, RPO's, Special Delivery, Advertising covers
Postal Stationery and Machine Cancels
Exp. 12/15

I Buy Stamps and Old Mail
(832) 518-6558
jonathan@topperstamps.com

For Sale

USPS Commemorative Yearbooks with stamps at face value of postage. For listing of what years are available and price e-mail Dave at stockdave44@yahoo.com 8/11

Do you collect **used USA Plate Number Coils**? Select what you want from my extensive inventory at 1/3 of Scott catalog value. They are listed on my website at <http://web2.iadfw.net/wills/> and from there you will find links to other countries too. Also interested in trading. Ken Wills 9/11

Philatelic Reference CD's. The following self-running, philatelic reference CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (Now over 1,700 items!!)**
- **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
- **Airport Philately** (800+ Airports on Stamps & Postal Stationery)
- **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
- **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ picture postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
- **Vintage Swiss Postcards** (700+ postcards from 1898 to 1959)
- **Swiss Transportation Tickets**

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 5.95 each. Non-member price is \$14.95 (+ \$2.50 domestic or \$5.00 international postage) each. Cash, checks or PayPal to peter@pcelias.com are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 4/14

Want to have your own **self-running virtual stamp album on CD, DVD or BluRay disk** with scans of your stamps, exhibits or even digital photos to give to your friends? With just a few simple steps I can create a self-running CD-ROM for PC's or a DVD or BluRay disk for your TV viewing pleasure! Contact me at peter@pcelias.com for more details. 4/11

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 or LESS of catalog value! Will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! Also accept PayPal if you wish to pay that way! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14

Wanted to Buy

Interesting "stuff", such as:

- ♦ Worldwide Revenue stamps on document
- ♦ Worldwide ATM stamps, such as those from Frama, Klüssendorf, Epelsa, Mobba Postage Vending machines and other "on-demand" printed postage (but NOT "ATM Booklet stamps") from around the world.
- ♦ CVP and custom order stamps, such as the "PhotoStamps" from Zazzle, Stamps.com, Endicia, etc.

Contact me at peter@pcelias.com with scans. 4/14

Germany—Berlin (9N) used stamps and covers postmarked 1948-1991. Berlin cancels are preferred but not required. Will buy from 1 to 10 copies of each issue. Contact Paul Ashley, 817-426-5131 or p-ashley@att.net 4/10

Been There - Done That (USS Arizona Memorial)

By Robert & Pat Weidman

In 1976, Pat and I took the first of six vacations to Hawaii. I had been there four times previously while in the US Navy.

We stayed at a hotel on Waikiki Beach and did all of the "touristy" things that people do while on vacation in Hawaii.

One of the things we did was to visit the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. We do this every time that we are in Oahu.



The USS Arizona was a US Navy Battleship that was commissioned on October 17, 1916. It was named after the 48th state to join the Union.

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the USS Arizona was tied up in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, along with most of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The Japanese launched a sneak attack on the military installation in Oahu that morning. They were trying to knock out U.S. military power in the Pacific.

During the attack, 21 ships were damaged or destroyed, along with over 300 military planes. 2,388 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen were killed. Over 2,000 more were wounded. The Arizona was sunk with many casualties. Nearly 1,000 men are still entombed on the ship that now lies on the bottom of Pearl Harbor nearly 74 years after the attack.

On Memorial Day, May 30, 1962, the USS Arizona Memorial was dedicated. Elvis Presley did a benefit concert on March 25, 1961, raising over \$64,000 to help pay for the memorial. On May 5, 1989, the USS Arizona Memorial was designated a National Historic Landmark.

If you are planning a vacation to Hawaii, especially the island of Oahu, I highly recommend visiting the Memorial and paying your respect to these men that were killed and wounded that day. It is a memory that will remain with you for the rest of your life.

The \$19.99 Priority Express mail stamp issued in 2014 was the first to picture the USS Arizona Memorial.



Falkland Islands, continued from Page 1

men, brought in from other countries to continue locating and disposing of mines still left over from the war. One to three foot boulders have filled all of the fox holes.



Karen and I visited the Falklands as part of a cruise around the southern half of South America in March 2015. Our excursion was to see the wild penguin rookery at Bluff Cove. To get there from the cruise ship we had to take a tender to shore, then board a small bus for about 15 minutes. Following that we boarded a 4 x 4 Land Rover for 45 minutes over one of the most rolling dirt paths we've ever experienced. The dips were so deep that the oversized tires of the Land Rover in front of us dipped into furrows and disappeared before it bounced up on the other side.

There are five penguin species that breed on the island: King, Rockhopper, Magellanic, Macaroni and Gentoo. At Bluff Cove we saw about 300 breeding pairs of Gentoo and a dozen King penguins. There were many 3 to 8 week old chicks there as well. Approximately 494,500 breeding pairs of penguins are thought to live on the island, 500 of which are King Penguins.

227 bird species have been seen on the islands, over 60 of which are known to breed on the islands. The Falklands are treeless and have wind-resistant vegetation predominantly composed of a variety of dwarf shrubs. Virtually the entire land area of the islands is used as pasture for sheep.

The weather there was bright and sunny until a large black cloud passed over us dropping hail for about five minutes and then the sun came out immediately afterward. The penguins were all molting their feathers that allow them to swim and for the most part did not move around much since they couldn't go out and find food.



Arlington Meeting Minutes April 1, 2015

By Benedict Termini

Irving Meeting Minutes April 15, 2015

By Skip Ely

CALL-TO-ORDER:

The Arlington branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club held its monthly meeting on April 1, 2015 at the Vandergriff Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Mike Smith.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 24 members present and no guests.

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ◆ **Secretary:** The secretary reported that the club presently had 109 members, all of whom had paid their dues for 2015.
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Judy Christmas reported that the club had sufficient funds. She said that the biggest expenses so far this year were rental fees for the Arlington meeting room and the cost of a new projector for the Granbury group.
- ◆ **EXPO Committee:** Stanley Christmas discussed various matters relating to the 2015 EXPO. He said all of the dealers from last year were returning except for one. He also mentioned that Ralph Poore would be his assistant this year. The following year Ralph will take over as Chairman with Stanley as his advisor and assistant. The show theme for this year will be 'Keeping Children Safe.'
- ◆ **Sales:** Skip Ely reported that sales were booming.
- ◆ **Newsletter:** The editor (Peter Elias) was not present.
- ◆ **Website:** The webmaster (Jim Myers) was not present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ Jerry Potter said that Bob Weidman would be taking over as chairman of the mixture pick committee after Expo 2015.
- ◆ Ray Cartier mentioned that we were going to need exhibits for the 2015 show and now was the time to start working on them so they would be ready in time.
- ◆ Ben Termini said that there were applications available for the exhibit mentoring program.
- ◆ Ray Smith said that the club had ordered a new set of Scott catalogs.
- ◆ Judy Christmas mentioned that we still need a program chairman for next year.
- ◆ Ray Cartier mentioned that there was a 'Chautauqua' on the subject of 'flight' coming up soon and he was trying to give it a philatelic dimension. Members can contact him for more information.
- ◆ A discussion was held about removing adhesive from recent US stamps. 'Pure Citrus' spray was recommended although some members reported that they had used 'Bestine' with good results.

SHOW & TELL:

- ◆ Steve Carpenter discussed a book on 'Post Office Lock Boxes' and passed one around.
- ◆ Dave Stockbridge showed a stamp identifier published by the Tatum Stamp Company in 1939 and pointed out that the current catalog value of the stamps in it was about \$120.
- ◆ Mike Smith passed out a picture of the 'Upright Inverted Jenny' sheet so we would all know what to look for. Duh!

DOOR PRIZES:

Bobby Mills won a post office hat, Chuck Snow a black carrying case, Dave Stockbridge an 'Inverted Jenny' sheet, Jeff Jessop and

Call-to-order:

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Smith at 7:30 PM at the Heritage Park Building in Irving.

Attendance:

There were 11 members and 1 guest present. The guest submitted an application for membership before the end of the meeting.

Officer Reports:

- ◆ **Secretary** – Skip Ely couldn't remember the exact number of members (it was 108).
- ◆ **Treasurer** – Mike Smith said the treasury was in good shape.

Committee Reports:

- ◆ **EXPO** – Mike reminded everyone we had chosen a theme ("Keeping Children Safe") for this year's EXPO.
- ◆ **Sales** – Skip Ely said sales were going well.
- ◆ **Web Site** – Jim Myers said that the website was up to date.

Announcements:

- ◆ Mike Smith said we had received a Catalog and Handbook of Confederate States of America Stamps for the club library as an award for the club members exhibits at TEXPEX.
- ◆ At the end of the meeting, Mike asked the members what they thought of the location for this meeting. He noted that it was half the cost of the Garden and Arts center. Although a good deal smaller, it would appear to be adequate for most of our meetings. He said he would check availability.

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Tom Turner showed some examples of a donation lot received at Granbury from a non-member. These will be offered at this year's EXPO Silent Auction.

Door Prizes:

Al Little was the recipient of an inverted Jenny packet. Gift Certificates were awarded to Jim Camak and Mike Smith. Our newest member, Geoff Owens of the Dallas Park Cities Club, was the recipient of a MCSC attaché bag.

Program:

The program was presented by Skip Ely, and was titled "(Early) American Painters and Their Paintings on U.S. Stamps, (Part One)."

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned around 8:30 PM.

Jim Camak won \$10 gift certificates each and Ken Dougan won a post office business card holder.

PROGRAM:

'Genealogical Philately' a program developed by the APS Stamp Buddy Service was discussed by Alliene Franklin, followed by a discussion of things we could all do to recruit more people to the hobby of stamp collecting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM by President Mike Smith.

Stamp Caption Contest Results

By Peter Elias

Last month, with the approval of the MCSC Board-of-Directors, we started a “comic strip caption” contest (similar to one that Linn’s Stamp News does). MCSC club members are encouraged to come up with response, whether witty or thought-provoking (as long as it is fit to be published in this newsletter!). Based on entries received before the deadline, I will make a decision based on the best entry received (and as they say “decisions of the judges are final”...).

I received 4 entries from 3 people. All responses were “non-philatelic” in nature.

The winner this month is Brian Smith, with his entry shown in the “bubble” nearby. Congratulations! I’ll notify the treasurer to provide a club \$10 gift certificate which can be used for purchases from club & APS sales books and from dealers at EXPO.

Other entries included:

- ◆ “I sure urine to get off this arch!” by Dave Stockbridge
- ◆ “Compute This!” by Ken Cox
- ◆ “Reply To All!” by Ken Cox

All great entries! There will be another caption contest starting in the June newsletter.

*Ah, now I can
run another
20 laps!*



Thematic Exhibit of the Month Suggestion

By Peter Elias

In thinking about our new stamp “caption” contest above, I had an idea about a great new type of exhibit, one that features captions above stamps!

This could just be a simple humorous exhibit that features a variety of stamps that have bubble captions, such as the one above. This could take on the form of a 1 or 4-page exhibit at MCSC EXPO.

Perhaps you could take this a whole step further, and make it a more serious exhibit (perhaps a 1-frame exhibit), whereby you tell a story using stamps and an appropriate caption above each one (that kind of assumes that you are using stamps that feature people or animals, unless there are talking cars, buildings and nature involved!).

Whether telling a fictional story, a fairy tale, a travelogue or a historical narration, this might be an interesting way to approach exhibiting (and a first!).

Ready, set, collect!

*I sure hope I get
there on time!*



News, Tips & Tricks from the Internet

By Peter Elias

Remember, the spammers and scammers are relentless out there... No, you haven’t inherited something from someone with a “similar” last name that died in a plane crash, you haven’t won some lottery where your e-mail address was picked at random, some guy in a foreign store says he wants to “buy your product” (but apparently doesn’t know what that is) and of course wants to pay with a (stolen) credit card, etc. If you get e-mails with some of the following (or similar) headings, just press delete and don’t put yourself at risk:

- 1) “*Dearest*”... you don’t know them, but you are dearest...
- 2) “*Can I trust You?*” Well, if you have to ask....
- 3) “*Attention!!!*” ... Yup, I’ll look at this as soon as I get done perusing the other 100 daily spam e-mails in detail.
- 4) “*Adobe Software*” at incredible prices; yeah right... Either pirated or just another way to get your credit card info (but no goods).
- 5) “*From [same person as e-mail is from]*”: Ok, if I send you an e-mail, I’m NOT going to put “From Peter Elias” into the subject area, am I? (...since it already says that in “from” area).
- 6) “*Confidential*”. Oooh, yes, that will keep prying eyes away...
- 7) “*Very Urgent*”. That makes me want to read it right-away...
- 8) “*Please kindly view the attachment*” ... yeah right, mommy told me never to open attachments from strangers...
- 9) “*Hi*”. That’s it, just “hi”? I’d better open that message to see what it’s about. Not.
- 10) “*Gold for Sell*”. Yes, that bad English is obvious, besides, what would I do with 2,500 pounds of gold, especially if it is the “alluvial gold dust” variety?
- 11) “*Business Proposal*” or “*Investment Proposal*”. Sent to info@mid-citiesstampclub.com; wonder how that relates to stamp collecting...
- 12) “*Congratulations Info, You’ve won a Prize*”. “Info” is “info@mid-citiesstampclub.com”...
- 13) “*Hello Software User!!!...*” For a while, I got about 10 of these a day, and spam filters can’t seem to trap them.
- 14) Non-sensical headings like “*has held it from expressing blessings, adornia*”. Yes, I received one with that heading, it only had a (fake) link to Facebook (when hovering the mouse over the link, it went NOT to Facebook, but some other site (at t35.com).

The above are just some of the over 150 spam & scam e-mails that I receive every day, a majority sent to the two mid-citiesstampclub.com e-mail addresses that are forwarded to me, others are sent to my regular email addresses.

The key take-away here is this: “Don’t”. Don’t reply and don’t open an attachment, now matter how enticing it might seem (as they say, “curiosity killed the cat”), and if it sounds good to be true, it probably is!

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Be sure to visit the Club website on the **Internet**:

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Wanted to Buy

Flags of Our Nation issues, any on cover from set number 6, Texas through Wyoming. I will pay 25c each for those of my choosing. Contact Ken Aldridge at 817-528-7979 or KAldridge@aol.com 11/12

Old picture post cards featuring golf, golf courses, golfers, etc. Will pay top \$\$ for those of my choosing. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 1/13

GILBERT & ELLICE, KIRIBATI, & TUVALU. I need earlier mint stamps for G&E (thru 1976) and stamps and SS's for Kiribati (thru 2004) and Tuvalu (thru 2006). Please call or e-mail with descriptions. Von Dunn, cell (817) 907-1986 or home (817) 594-6869 or svdunn@charter.net 3/12

WANTED: For MCSC Mixture Picks

Good U.S. material on paper. We need commemoratives (32¢ to present values, including "forever" material) airmails, semi-postals and high value definitives. Please no Christmas, Love or other "special stamps". Club will pay \$20.00 per pound for needed material. May pro-rate smaller quantities. Contact Jerry Potter at (817) 370-7066, 11/13

MEET & EAT for May & June 2015

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

“Meet and Eats” are before the club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather between 5:00 and 5:30 PM. The group will start ordering at 5:30 PM. Latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit (check with the restaurant first if it serves buffet style). Meals should be over around 6:45 PM.

Meet and Eat locations will be included the club’s broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are subject to change.

ARLINGTON

May 6 **Spring Creek Barbeque**, 3608 S Cooper St,
Arlington, TX (817) 465-0553.
springcreekbarbeque.com/arlington.htm

June 3 **Angelos Steak and Spaghetti**
2590 W Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX
(817) 303-7242
<http://www.angelospaghetti.com/>

IRVING

May 20 **Angelo’s Pasta**
1330 West Pioneer Parkway, Irving

June 17 **El Chico’s**, 2035 West Airport Freeway
Ph: (972) 659-1662

*Mid-Cities Stamp Club “Stamping Around” Newsletter
c/o Peter Elias
PO Box 940427
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**Don't Forget:
Arlington Auction - May 6**

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