



# 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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November 2015

### MCSC Members Promote Chautauqua

By Ray Cartier



Alliene Franklin with a young collector

The Waxahachie Chautauqua Board of Directors sponsored their 14th annual Chautauqua on Saturday, September 26th. The theme of the event was FLIGHT and it featured Apollo 13 astronaut, Fred Haise as the guest speaker

who spoke at their 1900 vintage Chautauqua Auditorium which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Chautauqua co-founder John Vincent said in 1874, "Chautauqua is an idea, embracing the 'all things' of life – art, science, society, religion, patriotism, education - whatsoever tends to enlarge, refine, and ennoble the individual. Today Chautauqua continues as an



exploration and enrichment of life through four pillars of programming: education, the arts, religion and recreation."

There were plenty of "Flight Related" talks and

activities at the all-day event including: Birds of Prey and drone flight demonstrations; interviews with WWII and Vietnam pilots; Mayan Indian mythological dances of flight; talks by the National Space Society on the future of human spaceflight; and on DaVinci and flight; an actress depicting Waxahachie native Bessie Coleman who was the first black American to get a pilot's license; and music by "The Flying Musicians Association". Booths were set up by the Texas Honeybee Guild, Author Steven Moss on the First African Americans in the Space Program, the Cedar Creek Lofts Racing Pigeon Club, Aeronauts in the Civil War, an Air Traffic Control Simulator brought in by the TSTC, a young couple in 1870's period costumes and Mid-Cities Stamp Club members Ray and Karen Cartier along with Alliene Franklin.

The MCSC members manned two tables with free packets of stamps and hinges and several door prizes for youth, along with table displays of stamps that interest youth, a literature table with free handouts, including information about the three Mid-Cities area clubs and on the upcoming MCSC Expo along with the Spring TEXPEX. A USPS booth was set up next to that of the Mid-Cities Club.

Ray brought the idea of creating an event cover and cancellation to the event, designing both a cachet and cancel and

then teaching the Directors of the Chautauqua how to obtain USPS cancellations in the future. The Board has decided that they want to have an event cover for all of their future annual events.

A member of the Chautauqua Board of Directors picked up 10 frames from MCSC member David Stockbridge in Granbury and afterward brought them back to him. In the frames were mounted Ray's 8 frame exhibit on "How We Got Men to the Moon" and two frames on "Flight" showing covers flown on a wide variety of aircraft.

Many of the estimated 600 attendees stopped by the tables or viewed the cover exhibits with some stating that they would be coming to one of the stamp shows."

It was hoped that by exposing philately to non-collectors, the club could entice new people to collect and to join the clubs and/or attend our area stamp shows.



Karen Cartier giving information about the Texas Philatelic Association, the Mid-Cities Stamp Club and the two North Texas Stamp Shows to visitors.



Apollo 13 Astronaut, Fred Haise

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## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:news@mid-citiesstampclub.com))

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### 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](mailto: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

**OCT. 27**      **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: Annual Picnic & Giant Mixture Pick

**NOV. 4**      **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: Giant Mixture Pick

**NOV. 13-14**      **28th Annual MCSC STAMP EXPO**

Grapevine Convention Ctr, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4, free admission

**NOV. 18**      **MCSC—IRVING Meeting**

Program: "EXPO Debrief" by Stan Christmas

**NOV. 24**      **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: "EXPO Debriefing" by Stan Christmas

**DEC. 2**      **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: Christmas Party

**DEC. 4-5**      **TSDA Dealers Bourse**

Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Fri 11-5, Sat 9-4

**DEC. 16**      —> NO <— **IRVING Meeting!**

**DEC. 22**      —> NO <— **LAKE GRANBURY Meeting!**

### 2016

**JAN. 6**      **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

**JAN. 29-31**      **APS Winter Show (Ameristamp EXPO)**

## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Not much to report this month, as I'm busy trying to get this newsletter out and work on my exhibits for EXPO! See you all at EXPO!

## Members in the News

Peter Elias mentioned the USPS "mPOS" (mobile Point of Sale) devices that some post offices now have in use (in the Autumn 2015 issue of the Meter Stamp Society Journal, page 13).

Ken Wills is mentioned in a write-up in the September–December 2015 issue of the "Singapore Philatelic Museum" newsletter:

## Friends Through Stamps

Singapore may be halfway around the world from the United States, but that has not stopped a special friendship from forming between Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM) and Mr Kenneth Wills.

Mr Wills visited Singapore in 2005 and 2015. On both trips, he dropped by SPM and was very impressed with what he saw. When he got home, he sent used American stamps to SPM so that the colourful miniature pieces of history could be distributed to school children.

When the United States Postal Service (USPS) launched their special *Star Wars* commemorative issue, Mr Wills sent a cover with the stamps to SPM. Little did he know that the cover would later be displayed at *Light vs Dark Exhibition: Stamps and Collectibles* which took place from March - June 2013. Recently, after reading about *Return To Sender* exhibition on the life of Elvis Presley, Mr Wills sent SPM a packet of used Elvis stamps that USPS issued in 1993, to be given out to museum visitors.

Mr Wills, born and raised in England, now resides in the US and is very active in searching for used postage stamps. His interest lies in collecting these treasures from former and present British colonies. He is also a past president for his local stamp club which has over 100 members. He currently manages a swap circuit for the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors ([www.iswsc.org](http://www.iswsc.org)) that strives to promote the fun and fascinating world of stamp collecting to the young and old.

To get in touch with Mr Kenneth Wills for swapping stamps, email him at [willsk@atmail.net](mailto:willsk@atmail.net)

A happy member of the public with Elvis stamps

Return To Sender exhibition is extended to 15 November 2015

## Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini

### New Members

#### Membership Summary – October 8, 2015

Membership as of September 3, 2015	111
New Members	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( )
Resignations	( )
Deceased	( )
Reinstatements	
Membership as of October 8, 2015	111

## Stamp Magazines

By Peter Elias

Can you still buy stamp magazines at a newsstand here in the USA? Doubtful. While there are only 3 general (non-society) stamp newspapers or magazines published in the USA (that I know of): Linn's (which for one issue each month incorporates the former "Scott Stamp Monthly), Mekeel's and US Stamp News (also published by Mekeel's) I have never seen any at a newsstand or even at places like Barnes & Noble which sell a large variety of magazines and newspapers.

Yet in Germany, with a population of only about 1/3 of that of the USA, there are at least 4 general stamp newspapers and magazines published (and these are available at newsstands there, as well as subscription of course):

- ◆ Briefmarken Spiegel
  - ◆ Deutsche Briefmarken-Revue
  - ◆ DBZ (Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung)
  - ◆ Michel Rundschau (published the catalog company Michel)
- Plus in Switzerland, there is:



## Internet Stuff

By Peter Elias

Many spammers and scammers are sending out email messages and they sometimes pretend to be YOU! Often I get spam emails that on the surface look like they were sent by me (but obviously weren't; why would I send myself spam messages that contain just a link to some site?). These spammers somehow manage to "spoof" the "return to" email address to be yours, not theirs. Problem then becomes that you can't ban these kind of emails, as you end up banning yourself (since the software generally bans the message based on the fake return path...). So it does help to be able to see if a message is truly from whom it says it's from. Google provides some help in deciphering the Email header information at <https://support.google.com/mail/answer/29436?hl=en>

Recently, there was a slew of messages sent to various members of the MCSC, including myself, my wife and other people both known and unknown to me. In fact, several of the recipients were all to me, including email addresses that don't exist at my account, such as "paul@pcelias.com". There is no Paul here, and it's not a valid email address at pcelias.com (since I own that domain), yet I seem to regularly get emails to that address by different people, meaning that SOMEONE out there had that wrong email address entered in their system.

The fake message just included in the main area the words "Important" and then a link to somewhere (probably some site that will download malware to your computer...).

The bottom of the fake message from me even said that it was checked by Avast (one of the anti-virus / anti-malware software providers). Of course that can't be, as I don't use Avast (I use AVG)!

Additionally by studying the "header" of this fake email message, I saw the following info, I've shown some of the info below (with my comments in blue):

- ◆ Return-Path: <peter@pcelias.com> *The "fake" return!*
- ◆ Received: from mailout.ish.de ([80.69.98.249]) by

## Wanted to Buy

**U.S. Liberty Series precancels.** Unsorted, on paper, quantities okay. Contact Gene Atkinson at [atkinson@our-town.com](mailto:atkinson@our-town.com). 4/15

**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](mailto:info@stvincentstamps.com) 8/14

### ◆ Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung

All that tells me that stamp collecting is certainly much more alive in Europe than here, as a greater percentage of people are involved in the hobby (not to mention spending money on these fairly expensive publications). Even the German BDPH (Association of German Philatelists) has about 80,000 members (compared to only about 30,000 for the APS), but Germany's population is much smaller!

And this is just Germany. Then there's England, France, Spain, Italy and the rest of the European countries, which also have their own philatelic publications and societies.

mx.perfora.net (mxueeus003) with ESMTPS (Nemesis) id 0LnACp-1YwNaE0ov7-00hRhF for <paul@pcelias.com> *Can't come from me, as why would my outgoing mail be received by a server in Germany (mailout.ish.de)? Outgoing mail from me is generally received from perfora.net.*

- ◆ Received: from submit.unitybox.de *Again, why would a message to me and from me be received by a German entity (although, my domain pcelias.com and emails sent from that account are hosted by 1and1.com, which is technically a European company...)*
- ◆ X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook 15.0 *Not possible, I don't use Microsoft Outlook to compose my emails. I use Windows Live Mail [aka MSMail] or on rare occasions Gmail.*
- ◆ X-Antivirus: avast! (VPS 150918-1, 19/09/2015), Outbound message *Not possible, I use AVG, not Avast...*

A lot of the above can be used to prove that I did not send the offending messages! So even if you see messages that supposedly come from me, the club or someone else that you actually know, if you have the chance, check the header information to see where this might have really come from and certainly don't click on the link in the message. Besides, I personally rarely ever send a message that basically says "Check this out" and click here ... And when I do provide links in an email message, I will also provide more of an explanation as to where this goes...

What can you do about this? Not too much, although some email systems may automatically insert the word [SPAM] in front of the subject or park the messages in a separate Spam Folder, but if you ban the sender, you're also banning all messages coming from that "indicated" sender (i.e.: me for example), but not from whomever the "real" sender actually was. So I can't ban the sender as I would then end up banning my own email address, and I do many times send "CC" messages to myself in order to have proof that I emailed someone.

And if in doubt, and you know the sender whose name is indicated, manually get a hold of them and ask if they sent that message (if you do that by email, that may not work if the messages came from a compromised email account).

## Comic Strip Caption Results (#4)

By Peter Elias

MCSC club members are encouraged to come up with a “caption” to the “comic strip bubble” presented with the Ifni stamp in last month’s newsletter, 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 2 people.

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

Other entries included:

- ◆ David Stockbridge:
  - ◆ “Number Please”
  - ◆ No! I can’t return your dime!”
- ◆ Robert Weidman:
  - ◆ Hello. This is the White House operator. No, the President can not help you get your cat Mr. Whisker’s picture put on a postage stamp.

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

Please consider entering! Given the relatively few number of responses this time, your odds of winning a \$10 gift certificate would have been pretty good!

As a side note, I vaguely remember Lily Tomlin’s skit as phone company operator “Ernestine” from the late 1960’s / early 1970’s TV Show “Laugh In”, and I was hoping that someone would have come up with a caption along the lines of something that “Ernestine” would have said, such as “*I’m the rep from the phone company and you have an unpaid postage due bill [snort, snort]*” (well, it’s kind of what she said...).



**You’re a what? “A Philatelist”? You’re Disconnected !**



*The stamp shown is Indonesia, Scott #637 from 1964. So, just what is the telephone switchboard operator thinking?*

## Been There - Done That (What? No Radio?)

By Peter Elias

In the Fall of 1984, I flew to Luxembourg to start my 3-month internship at Clark GmbH (a Germany distributor of Clark Equipment parts - the company that makes the “Bobcat” front-loaders).



Why Luxembourg? Since I had to pay my own way to get over to Germany, at the time, flying Icelandair out of Detroit to Luxembourg was the least expensive option. I got there about 2 weeks prior to the start of my job and wanted to use the extra time to explore a bit (driving all the way down to Switzerland and back). I do remember for pretty much the entire 2 weeks that I saw little or no sunshine! A typical rab Autumn in Europe.

This custom stamp above shows my rental car, a 1984 Ford Fiesta. And just like my airfare, it was also the most I could afford to rent at the time.

This car was a bout as basic as you could get. Since I technically learned to drive with an automatic in the USA, almost all rental cars at that time were stick! A/C? —> there’s a roll-down Window! Radio? What Radio?



Since this was the early 1980’s “Walkman” style portable cassette players were all the rage (no CD’s yet!), and I did have my Sanyo portable player with me. Not only did it play cassettes, but also had an AM/FM radio built-in!

WooHoo! But, one is NOT allowed to wear headsets while driving a car...

So what to do? At a local store I bought a small set of speakers for something like 50 DM (Deutsch Mark, about \$18 at the time), and they were the perfect size to jam into the small “parcel shelf” that ran across the car underneath the steering column (the photo to the left is of a similar car I found on the internet—albeit it is a right-hand drive version). The Sanyo unit itself I kept between the drivers seat and the hand-brake cable. So now I had music to play while driving for 2 weeks!

And ‘ya know something? I still have those speakers and the Sanyo cassette player to this date (31 years later, see photo above). And they both still work!

# 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](mailto: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

**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](mailto:jasdmyers@earthlink.net) 5/15

**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](mailto:jstrubelboy@aol.com) 12/14

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

I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

## EDDIE & DEBS STAMPS

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DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE 12/15

P.O. BOX 126061 [THOMASEF@FLASH.NET](mailto:THOMASEF@FLASH.NET)  
BENBROOK, TX 76126 682-351-1003  
MEMBER: TSDA, MCSC 682-351-4729

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:p-ashley@att.net) 4/10



## Attention All Club Members!!

By Judy Christmas

This is my last appeal for help at this year's EXPO. The Volunteer sign-up sheet has been passed around at meetings and many of you have signed up to work a shift or two, but more help is needed. We have had a couple of volunteers who have had to drop out due to health issues and so their spots need to be covered. If you are planning on attending the show, why not add a couple of hours and help the Club with your smile. That really is all it takes to work at the EXPO. You will be rewarded with lots of other smiles and knowing that you have helped a fellow stamp collector is priceless.

We will begin setting up for the show on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. As in years past, for those who can and who want to beat some of the rush hour traffic, we will be meeting at 3:30 PM for a quick early dinner at the Red Robin restaurant this year for something different. Red Robin is located at 1701 William D Tate Avenue in Grapevine.

In years past the first order of business has been to get the frames up. This year that will change since we setting up on Thursday instead of a Friday. The dealers will be allowed into the Convention Center first, and after the young men the Club hires to do all the lifting arrive, say around six or so, then the frames will be hauled in. Once the Chance Board is set up, members will begin filling it with envelopes. The Beginning Collectors Area, Silent Auction and Mixture Pick will also begin their set-up. We will also be putting the programs together and placing Expo signs around the Convention Center. All areas are short this year. So, all volunteers are greatly needed!

As an incentive to come out and help your Club, we are giving away thirteen \$25 gift certificates during the show. Two will be given away Thursday night, six on Friday and five on Saturday. However, in order to win, you must first put in some volunteer time. When you come in to volunteer and you check in at the Registration table, please be sure that you get a ticket. You will write your name on one ticket and place the other ticket in a big bowl from which a lucky name will be drawn every hour on the hour starting at 11:00 AM on Friday and again on Saturday. You will hang on to the other ticket. New tickets will be given out each day.

Coffee, snacks and other goodies will be available throughout both days in an area behind the double doors to the left of the stage. In addition, the Club will have an ice chest full of soft drinks and bottled water. So please make your plans now to join us for a fun-filled weekend serving your Club.

Again this year you can order a box lunch if you would like. I passed out forms at the November meetings but will extras at the Registration table. These box lunches will be coming from Jason's Deli. You must pay when you turn your order form in, all order forms must be turned in to me by 10:00 am on both days. After lunches arrive please go to the snack area to pick up your lunch. The lunches will include a sandwich (you will be able to choose from several choices of meats), chips, pickle, cookie or brownie for \$4.00. Yes you read that right, **\$4.00**. Expo is supplementing the volunteer's lunches this year. So please, come join us for a fun-filled two days!

## Calling All Car Collectors

By Peter Elias

Let me rephrase that: calling all "cars on stamps collectors"! One of the stamp collecting topics interests me is "automobiles". While the American Topical Association has a large number of specialty "study unit", ranging from ships to penguins, I did not see one for cars. I'm sure there must enough "car guys" out there to perhaps start a group dedicated to that topic.

I know that this may be a tall orders, as there Ford guys, Chevy guys, Dodge guys, and of course me, an "Audi guy". But I like most cars in general, and I think that having a specialty group dedicated to that topic would be great.

How to get started? So far, I've contacted Jeff Hayward who posted a request on the ATA's Facebook page about contacting him if you have an interest in starting such a group. And if YOU have an interest, please contact [stamps@jeffhayward.com](mailto:stamps@jeffhayward.com) and let him know that you're interested!

## President's Letter

by Mike Smith

The 2015 Mid-Cities Stamp EXPO, our first Friday/Saturday show, is just around the corner on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. We are printing extra programs this year anticipating an even better than usual turnout that will contribute to a successful EXPO for all of our stamp dealers and the club.

Most of us have already signed up as volunteers at the various EXPO activities, but if you have some free time there check with Janet Moyer to see if any areas still need help.

The MCSC 2015-2016 Member Handbook and Directory was prepared by Ray Cartier and Ben Termini and printed by Peter Elias, and is being distributed to all members attending any of the three meetings before EXPO. Copies will be mailed any club members who aren't able to pick one up. Please remember to shred and destroy the previous directory listings that include club members' personal information to keep it from getting into the wrong hands.

Unfortunately the day after we distributed the first Directories at our Irving meeting, because of some misinformation from the Irving Parks and Recreation Department, we found out that the new Irving location given in the Handbook is not available and we will be meeting in the Garden and Arts Building again in 2016. I agree with Ben Termini that the information in the Handbook could all be posted on the club website where it would be easy to update, so we would only need printed copies of the Membership Directory and of the Handbook for members without computer access.

Our annual Business Meeting will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the start of the regular Arlington club meeting. This is your opportunity to present any changes you would like to see in how the Club runs, as described in Article V of the Club Constitution. Since little, if any, new business is brought up at these meetings, we will start the November meeting at the usual time of 7:30 PM.

Stamp of the Month: Albert Einstein, the theoretical physicist who developed the general theory of relativity, was born in Germany in 1879. He was visiting the United States when Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, and never returned to Germany. Einstein became an American citizen in 1940 and was a resident scholar at the Princeton University Institute for Advanced Study for the rest of his life. Monaco commemorated the centenary of his birth in November 1979 with Scott Nr. 1194. Dozens of other countries also issued stamps in honor of Einstein including USA Prominent Americans Scott Nr. 1285 & Nr. 1774 and France Scott Nr. 3112 on the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

Keep On Collecting!

Mike

## Arlington Meeting Minutes October 7, 2015

By Benedict Termini

## Irving Meeting Minutes October 21, 2015

By Skip Ely

### Opening:

The meeting started at 5:30 PM with the annual club picnic on the patio of the Bob Duncan Center in Vandergriff Park. Good food, good weather and good friends. After everyone had eaten, a short regular meeting was held inside the center.

### Call-to-Order:

Club President Mike Smith called the group to order at 6:50 PM.

### Attendance:

There were 25 members present and 1 guest (Tommie Dougan).

### Officer / Committee Reports:

- ◆ **Secretary** - Ben Termini reminded everyone that dues notices would be published in the next three editions of the newsletter and that dues should be mailed to him or to the club post office box. He also passed around a preliminary copy of the new club directory and asked those members present to verify that their information was correct.
- ◆ **EXPO Committee chairman** - Stanley Christmas reported that things were in good shape for the EXPO. He said that one of the judges had cancelled so they had decided to go with the two remaining judges and ask one of the judges (John Hotchner) to give a short talk at the Awards Dinner. He pointed out that there was some nice material available in the silent auction and that more exhibits were needed. There will be 27 dealers at the bourse. He also mentioned that the mail-out would be done on October 22, and would comprise about 1150 envelopes and over 600 emails.
- ◆ Judy Christmas mentioned that lunches would only cost \$4.00 at the EXPO which was a bargain. Ken Aldridge discussed his contacts with law enforcement agencies concerning the theme of the show (Saving Children). Janet Moyer passed around a signup sheet for volunteers at the show and encouraged everyone to participate. Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that tickets for the Awards Dinner were still available. He pointed out that there was some nice material available in the silent auction and He
- ◆ **Sales Books** - Chairman Skip Ely said that he was going to request books from the APS for the coming year and that anyone with a particular interest should contact him so he could pass that request on. Since he is closing the 2014 books next month, there will be no checkouts allowed at the next meeting.

### Announcements:

- ◆ Ray Cartier gave an account of the Waxahachie Chautauqua which was held on Saturday September 26. He pointed out that, as a representative of the club, he had given out over 50 packets of stamps and a large amount of literature.
- ◆ Rich Hildebrandt reminded members that the club was auctioning off its copies of the Scott Catalogs and the bid form had been printed in the last newsletter.
- ◆ Peter Elias said that there was a large amount of stamps and stamp-related material available (in the back of the room) that was donated by Byron Sandfield of Park-Cities Stamps and was meant primarily for the EXPO silent auction and

**Call-to-Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Mike Smith at 7:30 PM at the Garden & Arts Center in Irving.

**Attendance:** There were 11 members present (no guests).

### Officer Reports:

Mike announced that new Club Directories were available, and present members all signed out a copy. The rest will be distributed at meetings of the other chapters.

### Committee Reports:

- ◆ **EXPO** – Ray Cartier said we probably still needed some exhibits.
- ◆ **Sales** – Skip said he had begun closing 2014 books and inventorying the 2015 ones in preparation for seller pay-outs at the December Arlington meeting.
- ◆ **Newsletter** – Peter commented on the last three news letters of the year.
- ◆ **Website** – Jim Myers said he had posted the first installment of a cooperative effort to establish “specialists” of each U.S. definitive and commemorative stamp.

### Announcements:

There were no announcements.

### Show & Tell:

- ◆ Peter Elias passed around a quarterly Spanish issue focusing on ATM stamps of the world, as well as a couple of other mail items.
- ◆ Ken Wills had a copy of a recent Singapore Philatelic Newsletter with a nice article about his donation of U.S. Elvis stamps.
- ◆ Tom Tuner showed a cover from the Pacific Island of Kwajalein (where he lived for a time) with a postmark date of October 32!
- ◆ Jim Myers also passed around an item of interest.

**Door Prizes:** Club gift certificates were awarded to Mike Smith and Jim Camak.

**Program:** Ray Cartier talked about his travels and proofs he created that centered on books by Jules Verne (very interesting!).

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned around 8:45 P.M.

beginners table (and remainders were free to members). He also discussed the upcoming Post Card show in Plano.

### Show & Tell:

Ray Cartier passed around an example of covers he had prepared for the Waxahachie Chautauqua. He mentioned that this was an annual event and that next year's theme was water.

**Door Prizes:** Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Brian Smith and Ken Dougan.

**Program:** Envelope stuffing in preparation for the EXPO mail out. Stanley Christmas gave out a large number of gift certificates at the end of the meeting as a reward for those members who had stayed to help, including one for \$25 which was won by Janet Moyer.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

# Granbury Meeting Minutes September 22, 2015

By Gene Atkinson

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ With Dave Stockbridge out of town, Alliene Franklin welcomed 12 members and 1 guest to the September meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club.
- ◆ Dave Bienik of the Bentwater Activities Center (1800 W. Emerald Bend Ct.) served as host.
- ◆ Alliene circulated get-well cards for Jerry Potter and Austin Mullins, then discussed early preparations for the 2015 EXPO in Grapevine in November.
- ◆ Alliene also noted that the October meeting at Lake Granbury will be the annual club picnic, with members asked to bring side dishes, desserts and drinks.

## SHOW & TELL:

- ◆ Bob Patterson had a steamer letter from the "City of Brussels" out of New York in 1881 bound for Liverpool, Calais, Paris and Marseilles.
- ◆ Cyndie Spurlock showed a 1997 Jakarta first day cover with a petroleum theme.
- ◆ Jim Case described the colorful Canadian currency he obtained for an upcoming cruise.

## WHAT'S MY NAME:

Brian Smith started a discussion of stamp issuing policies with examples of Guinea "wall paper." No one is really keeping track of the huge amounts of agent-produced topical issues. Scott catalogs are more restrictive than Michel and others in listing these stamps, few of which actually saw postal use.

## BREAK:

Culinary decadence reigned with Al Hull's caramel-apple-pecan cake.

## PROGRAM:

Once again Skip Ely demonstrated what could be accomplished with patience and imagination using the multiple varieties of modern United States regular/definitive issues. Taking pounds of EXPO left-overs and discards, he has created his own albums of the many die-cut, dated, sheet, booklet, and coil releases of the last decade. With specific reference to the Purple Heart stamps, flag stamps, Lady Liberty, and Liberty Bell, he inspires his audience that stamp collecting need not involve great expenditures for classic rarities. Fun and the thrill of the chase can be found in the lowliest "Forever" regulars.

## CLOSING:

As the session closed, Daniel Kennedy won the "Jenny" miniature sheet door prize; Alliene Franklin and Skip Ely each won club gift certificates.

## 2016 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Mr. \_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_ Miss Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under age 18)

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do not use P.O. Box or Private Mail Box)

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ Home Ph: (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Work Ph: (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Regular Adult \_\_\_ Additional Adult \_\_\_ Youth (under age 18)

\_\_\_ I want to save the club money and get the electronic version of the newsletter or \_\_\_ Please continue to mail my newsletter

You have my permission to publish in the club directory issued to all members my:

\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_ Collecting interests

Note: Mailing address will be used in the Members Handbook, unless otherwise specified. Indicate below any affiliations with other stamp societies and member numbers (if applicable)

\_\_\_ APS # \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ ATA # \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ TPA # \_\_\_\_\_ Other affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/201\_\_\_

—> **Make check out to "Mid-Cities Stamp Club" and mail application & payment to:**

**Ben Termini, MCSC—Secretary, 8520 Meadowbrook Dr, Ft. Worth TX 76120-5204**

Type of Membership (circle):

**Regular Adult: \$12; Additional Adult (same household): \$6; Youth (under 18 years): \$4; Sponsor Membership: \$25**



## MCSC Annual Picnic

By Judy Christmas

The weather was almost perfect for this year's picnic. Not much wind and the temperature was in the nineties. Many people showed who did not let me know they were coming, so we ran out of hot dogs. Seventeen members put their names down on the sign-up sheet but 25 showed up. Please members, if you are coming to such events as the picnic or Christmas party, let me know so that there will be enough food for everyone.

Having the picnic on the patio of the Community Center is really working out great. They set up more than enough tables each year. Tom Turner who usually provided us with a BBQ no longer has one. I found a table top one that seemed to work out just right, except that Dave Stockbridge and his helper Ray Moyer had sore backs when they were done as they had to set the grill on the ground. We will make changes for next year so that there will be no sore backs! My thanks to Janet Moyer for helping me set up the serving table and for telling me to "stop binding over". And thank you all for coming! This is becoming quite the social event. I hope to see everyone again and remember to please let me you are coming.

Thank you!



## Annual Club Christmas Party

By Judy Christmas

The annual Mid-Cities Stamp Club Christmas Party will be held on December 2nd at the Bob Duncan Community Center. As in the past years, the Club will continue to provide this meal. If you would like to bring your favorite Christmas dessert please feel free to do so. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the Arlington, Irving and Granbury November meetings.

Please, please members if you are coming let me know. I do not want to run out of food as we did at the picnic this year. We will begin gathering around 6:00 PM with the serving line beginning at 6:30 PM. After everyone has had a chance to eat their dinner, we will begin playing Shanghai Bingo which should be around 7:30 PM. We should be through between 9:00 to 9:30 PM.

To play Shanghai Bingo we ask that each member and their guest(s) bring three philatelic type items each. Please, these items should be such items as stamps, stamp covers, stamped envelopes or philatelic supplies. Please place your items in either plain envelopes or wrapped packages so other members cannot tell what is in them. Just be sure to bring three items per person.

The more gifts on the picking table the more fun everyone has and the more likely that you will go home with a nice prize. Each item should be no more than about \$5 in value. Just keep in mind that your item should be something you would like to receive in return. If you have any questions or won't be at a meeting to sign-up please e-mail me, Judy Christmas, at [judy66@swbell.net](mailto:judy66@swbell.net)

Tracking Number: 9114901075742740067903

**Delivered**

Updated Delivery Day: Thursday, October 22, 2015

### Product & Tracking Information

Postal Product: USPS Tracking™

DATE & TIME	STATUS OF ITEM	LOCATION
October 22, 2015, 10:16 am	Delivered, In/At Mailbox	POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
Your item was delivered in or at the mailbox at 10:16 am on October 22, 2015 in POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601.		
October 22, 2015, 9:26 am	Out for Delivery	POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
October 22, 2015, 9:16 am	Sorting Complete	POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
October 22, 2015, 7:53 am	Arrived at Post Office	POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
October 22, 2015, 2:11 am	Departed USPS Facility	KEARNY, NJ 07032
October 21, 2015, 10:36 am	Arrived at USPS Facility	KEARNY, NJ 07032
October 19, 2015, 4:48 pm	Arrived at USPS Facility	OAKLAND, CA 94615
October 16, 2015, 3:19 pm	Arrived at USPS Facility	DALLAS, TX 75260

PLANO  
1200 JUPITER RD  
PLANO  
TX  
750749998  
4871140074  
10/13/2015 (800)275-8777 4:04 PM

Product Description	Sale Qty	Final Price
Prepaid Mail 1 (Weight:0 lbs. 3.80 oz.) (Destination:OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73110) (Acceptance Date:10/13/2015 16:03:15) (Label #:9114901075742740067842)		
Prepaid Mail 1 (Weight:0 lbs. 1.70 oz.) (Destination:GLENWOOD CITY, WI 54013) (Acceptance Date:10/13/2015 16:03:43) (Label #:9114901075742740067866)		
Prepaid Mail 1 (Weight:0 lbs. 1.90 oz.) (Destination:POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601) (Acceptance Date:10/13/2015 16:04:16) (Label #:9114901075742740067903)		
Prepaid Mail 1 (Weight:0 lbs. 1.70 oz.) (Destination:EUSTIS, FL 32726) (Acceptance Date:10/13/2015 16:04:46) (Label #:9114901075742740067880)		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## What is the USPS Doing?

By Peter Elias

Good thing there's tracking! On Oct. 13, an item I was mailing from Plano, TX to Poughkeepsie, NY was scanned.

3 days later, on Oct. 16 it arrived 20 miles away in Dallas (I could have walked that in less than one day!). 3 days after that, it arrived in Oakland, CA (about 1,300 miles in the wrong direction!) and was in-transit at that time (to where I wonder...). Several days later (Oct. 21) it shows up in New Jersey for final delivery in Poughkeepsie (Oct. 22), 9 days after it was originally mailed! Wow!

The item shown above this one on the receipt, made it to Wisconsin in 6 days (Oct. 19). 6 days from Dallas to Wisconsin? Nothing "1st Class" about that ...

It was explained to me that the 3-day lag from Plano to Dallas is due to 1st Class Mail being shifted from being processed in Coppell to Dallas, but this doesn't explain how it ended up in California after that (my guess is that it was tossed into the wrong bin somewhere...).

## Been There - Done That (The DMZ)

By Pat & Robert Weidman



Pictured is Korea Scott# 208, issued December 25, 1954, commemorating the adoption of the US-Korea mutual defense treaty. This treaty came about as a result of the Korean War.

The photo nearby is of

Pat and I with two South Korean soldiers at the Demilitarized Zone Command, known as the “DMZ”. This picture was taken in October of 2007. We had taken a vacation to the Maldive Islands, which lie off the southeast coast of India. We flew on Singapore Airlines, departing from San Francisco. The plane stopped in Seoul, South Korea for refueling before continuing on to Singapore, where we spent the night. The next day we caught our flight to the Maldives.

On the way back we flew to Singapore and changed planes for our flight heading home. Again, the plane stopped in Seoul, South Korea for refueling and we were able to lay over a couple of days which gave us the opportunity to do some sightseeing. One of the places we were able to visit was the DMZ.

The DMZ runs along with 38th parallel, dividing North and South Korea. It is an average of 2.5 miles wide and runs across the entire width of the Korean peninsula. An estimated one million troops are stationed on the North’s side and over ½ million on the South’s side, which includes a U.S. contingent of several tens of thousands.

The North Koreans attacked across the 38th parallel in 1950. Over two million lives were lost in the bloody three year conflict. The fighting ended in July of 1953 with the signing of a cease-fire armistice. A permanent peace treaty was never signed.

There are tours one can take to the DMZ. When we checked into our hotel in Seoul, we booked one immediately as they tend to fill up quickly. The tour bus that took us stopped at the entrance to the DMZ where armed South Korean soldiers came aboard and checked everyone’s passport before letting us proceed. We were also instructed not to take any pictures looking across to the North’s side.



## Been There - Done That (AAA)

By Peter Elias



When I got my first car in high school in 1978, I also joined the American Automobile Association (AAA).

Back then, one of the main reasons for

joining was for the free maps and the towing feature (all of which are still good reasons today).

Back in those days, AAA also had another nice feature, which was the ability to purchase American Express traveler’s checks that did not require payment of the usual 1% fee. Additionally, when traveling overseas, cashing those checks into foreign currencies also got you a better exchange rate.

But I do remember one time when I was in Germany, a bank I went to refused to cash these traveler’s checks. Sure, they were American Express traveler checks, but they also had the AAA logo printed on them as well. The bureaucratic German in charge at the bank pointed to a sample illustration of an American Express travelers check that they had, and since that did not feature the AAA logo, they refused to cash the checks! At that point I had already counter-signed the checks, and all my explanations of why there was an AAA logo did not convince them. Even American Express in Europe seemed to know nothing about AAA logo imprints. Mind you now, this was 1984, and there was no internet and phone calls from Germany back to the USA were kind of expensive.

Luckily I walked the checks over to another facility (either the train station or post office - I forgot which...) and they managed to cash the checks without a problem.

Of course now with ATM machines everywhere, and use of credit and debit cards, traveler’s checks have pretty much gone the way of the dodo.

But I am still a member of AAA, as my “38 Year Member” imprint on my current card shows! In addition to AAA membership for things like free maps, I also enjoy fairly good rates on my car & home-



owners insurance, as well as car rental & hotel discounts that makes the yearly AAA fees worth every penny!

I also remember that as a 5th and 6th grader, I was in the “school safety patrol” and got to wear a AAA-badge on my shirt sleeve! One benefit was that one got to leave class a few minutes early! This is a program that AAA started in the 1920’s, and has included many famous people, including US Presidents, Astronauts, Governors, US Olympic Medalists and various celebrities.



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

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For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files>  
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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](mailto: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](mailto:KAldridge@aol.com), 817-528-7979 1/13

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](mailto:jmhstamp@verizon.net) 2 /15

## 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 November & December 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

- November 4     **Jay Jay Café**,  
1001 S. Bowen, Arlington  
Ph. (817) 861-1060
- December 2     Club Christmas Party  
(Bob Duncan Community Center)

### IRVING

- November 18     **Mama’s Daughter**  
2412 W. Shady Grove Rd, Irving  
Phone: (972) 790-2778
- December        No meeting! See you in 2016 !

*Mid-Cities Stamp Club “Stamping Around” Newsletter  
c/o Peter Elias  
PO Box 940427  
Plano, TX 75094-0427*

**Don't Forget:  
Mid-Cities EXPO - Nov. 13 & 14**

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