

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



Volume 29, Number 3

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March 2016

Been There - Done That (Dunn's River Falls)

By Bob & Pat Weidman

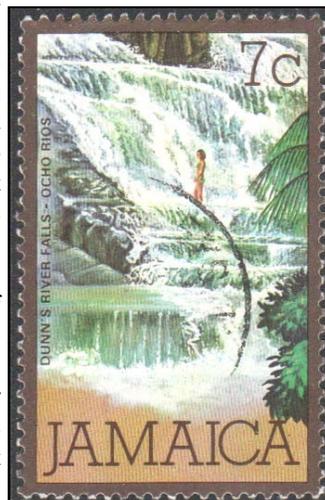
In 1975, Pat and I were looking for a place to go on vacation, when it was suggested to us to go to Jamaica. Since we both like the beach, we decided to go to Montego Bay on the north shore. One of the things we did while we were there was to rent a car and drive down the coast to Ocho Rios.



Then we rented was a Volkswagen Beetle with a stick shift. No problem, mon. I can drive a stick shift Volkswagen. My sister had one that she let me use when I would come home on leave from the Navy.

The Jamaicans drive on the left side of the road just like the British. No problem, mon. I can drive on the left. Because you drive on the left side of the road in Jamaica, the steering wheel is on the right side of the vehicle. Again, no problem mon. The stick shift is between the two front seats and you shift gears with your left hand. Problem, mon! It took a little while getting used to this. I practiced in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn that we were staying at before getting on the highway to Ocho Rios.

Ocho Rios is the home of Dunn's River Falls, a series of waterfalls that empties into the Caribbean Sea. The crystal-clear water splashes over a series of stone steps on its way to the sea. We put on our swimsuits and hired a li-



censed guide to take us up the falls. The stone steps are slippery, so you grab the hand of the person in front of you and step where the guide tells you to, while he reels off bits of local lore. The cost of an experienced guide today is around fifteen dollars. Forty-two years ago it was a lot cheaper, but then again, so was everything

else!

The accompanying stamp is Jamaica Scott #470 (below left), issued November 26, 1979, is from a set featuring Jamaican attractions. In the pictures, Pat is standing next to the Volkswagen we rented and the other picture has her leaning against a palm tree at the bottom of Dunn's River Falls.

Lower Postage Rates?

By Peter Elias

Several years ago, the USPS was allowed to raise postage rates from 46¢ to 49¢ due to the economy. It was supposed to be an "emergency" ("exigent" in legal speak) measure. The US Postal Service is now mandated to reduce the rates by 4.3%. Announcements are suppose to be made in February with the reduction taking place in April (supposedly to 47¢), although rumor has it that the USPS will continue to fight this mandated reduction. The downside: All your previously purchased [49¢] FOREVER stamps would now be worth 2¢ less...!

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor (editor@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 only \$12 per year. For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or e-mail us at:

editor@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

2016

- FEB. 23** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *John Hotchner's talk* from the EXPO Awards presented by Stan Christmas
- FEB. 26-28** **TEXPEX 2016**
Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Center, Grapevine. www.texpex.org
- MAR 2.** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Clean Out Your [Philatelic] Closet
- MAR. 16** **MCSC—IRVING Meeting**
Program: TBD
- MAR. 19** **EXPO Meeting**
Pizza Garden Inn, Bedford, TX 11 AM
- MAR. 18-19** **Dallas Postcard Show**
NEW VENUE: Comfort Inn and Suites Plano East, 700 Central Parkway East (Exit 29, East side of Expressway; 3 blocks north of South Fork Hotel on Expressway frontage road, just behind new Furr's Cafeteria, LaQuinta), Plano. Fri: 10 AM-6 PM. (Early Bird Session Friday: 9 AM.) Sat: 9 AM-4 PM. \$4.00, good for both days
- MAR. 22** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *Naval Ship Covers* by Bob Coleman & Denny Ludlow

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

A couple of readers noticed that there were a couple of either outdated and/or duplicated classifieds on pages 5 & 9. Thank you! The ads in question have been removed.

The "annual membership renewal" dust has settled, and our current membership is exactly at 100 members. Attrition is natural over time. We do need to mention the club to anyone potentially interested in stamp collecting and promote it whenever and wherever possible. I have had some new "club business cards" printed, and these now include a "QR" code (which when scanned, takes you directly to the club website)

Don't forget to go to Texpex!

Members in the News

By Peter Elias

Ray Cartier's exhibit "How We Got Men To The Moon" won a gold medal at Sandical.

A picture in the February 2016 issue of the Texas Philatelist shows Peter Elias at the "Quilled Heart" stamp first day of issue ceremony at Dallas Love Field Airport on January 12th (Editor's note: I videotaped the ceremony and should have it available on DVD soon).

MCSC in the News

The February 2016 issue of the Texas Philatelist has an article about the success of the 2015 MCSC EXPO and its change to a Friday/Saturday schedule, along with a Palmares of all EXPO awards.

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini

New Members

Edith & Lloyd Willis (#577 & #576)

Dropped due to non-payment of 2016 dues

Aldridge, Blake (#512-Y)
Ashley, Paul (#475)
Bearden, Andy (#566)
Bomgren, Eric (#380)
Dunn, Shea (#296)
Eaton, Travis (#386)
Etling, Jimmy (#567)
Farci, Henrietta (#122)
Mather, Allen (#514)
Mitchell, Stephen (#574)
Nazzaro, Joe (#396)
Smart, Jesse (#531)
Thomas, Deborah (#558)
Thomas, Eddie (#557)
Tittley, Andrew (#532)

Membership Summary – February 16, 2016

Membership as of January 6, 2016	112
New Members	2
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(15)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	()
Membership as of February 16, 2016	100



Been There - Done That (La Cueva del Indio)

By Peter Elias



On January 17, 2016, the USPS issued the “La Cueva Del Indio” \$6.45 Priority Mail stamp.

While I mail a fair amount of Priority Mail items, I don’t often buy Priority Mail stamps, since I usually

choose to use up older stamps to pay for Priority Mail, so this particular issue escaped my attention at the time. But looking at it, I realized that “I’ve Been There”! Recently in fact, almost 2 years ago.



For Spring Break 2014, our family took a brief 6-day trip to Puerto Rico, an easy direct flight from DFW Airport! While in Puerto Rico, we did all sorts of sightseeing, including the various “must see” places like Old San Juan, Castillo San Felipe del Morro, the El Yunque Rainforest and the Arecibo Lighthouse and Arecibo Observatory.

Wanting to see something see something less touristy, we found ourselves at the Cueva Ventana (a privately run



Granbury Meeting Minutes January 26, 2015

By Eugene Atkinson

In the absence of Dave Stockbridge, Alliene Franklin and Gary Christopher welcomed 14 enthusiasts, including new members Lloyd & Edith Willis and guest Cynthia James, to the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club. The group met in the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court, in Granbury, at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 26.

For an **INTRODUCTION**, members described their collecting interests and showed some recent acquisitions. Denny Ludlow had a selection of maximum cards, Gene Atkinson passed around a colorful envelope just received from Russia, Daniel Kennedy had a U. S. bicentennial cover tied to a \$2.00 bill, and Alliene Franklin displayed a collection of Christmas stamps.

In **ANNOUNCEMENTS**, Alliene asked for volunteers for monthly programs for 2016 and collected exhibit pages for the club frame promised to the TEXPEX show late in February.

For the anticipated **BREAK**, Al Hull offered up an “almond joy” cake of chocolate and cocoanut.

The **PROGRAM** for the evening was called “Clean Out Your Closet,” and in rapid order many tables were cleared of publications, albums and binders, stamps and covers moving from one member’s closet to another’s.

In **CLOSING**, Al Hull and Bob Coleman won gift certificates.

cave—gorgeous view at the end) and at the Cueva del Indio (Indian Cave). It was located about 5 miles east of Arecibo on a secondary road. My GPS couldn’t find the place, since there wasn’t a street address to punch in, but we finally found it (and it had a rather non-descript entrance). The landscape nearby is really unusual, and one gets the great view shown to the left. (which faces east) The view on the stamp would be from the opposite side, facing west). The whitewater was very rough, and the drop from the lookout point (without any of safety rope was fairly high).

There was also a “cave” one could climb down into (on a somewhat rickety 20 foot ladder—see photo), but one got to see some Indian petroglyphs and a colony of bats overhead!



Arlington Meeting Minutes February 3, 2016

By Ray Cartier

Irving Meeting Minutes February 17, 2015

By Skip Ely

Call-to-Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Smith at 7:30 PM. There were 21 members and 1 guest present. The Guest was Jack Scott of Arlington.

Officer's Reports:

- ◆ Michael Smith reported that Ray Cartier would be substituting as Secretary for Ben Termini who was out of town.
- ◆ Ray Cartier reported that he did not have the membership figures but new that many of our members had not yet paid their dues and requested that anyone at the meeting who had not yet paid to please do so as soon as possible.
- ◆ Janet Moyer and Gene Pfretzschner each won a \$10 Club voucher in the door prizes. Peter Elias had donated a First Day of Issue Program from the First Day Ceremony at Love Field for the new flower stamp. That item was won by Skip Ely.

Committee Reports:

- ◆ Ralph Poore, Expo Chairman reported that the theme for our next Mid-Cities Expo would be Science Fiction. There will be a U.S. stamp set honoring Star Trek later this year.
- ◆ Skip Ely reported that sales from the APS books was anemic in January, but that we were doing well at this meeting. He told us that he needs to sell \$20 per month for the APS.
- ◆ Ray Cartier had been asked to visit a non-collector who had a lot of stamps from his deceased father. Ray had done so, but the collection did not have any stamps of value which he advised the man to use on postage. The man did give Ray a large box of mint album pages and two stamp albums which Ray delivered to Rich Hildebrand at the show.

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Bob Weidman showed a very large Canadian Flag stamp on cover.
- ◆ Ray Cartier passed around a 9 X 12 envelope, received through the mail without a cancellation that had a single \$2.00 Jenny Stamp with the plane right-side up. He left it up to the viewers to discover that the plane had been cut out with a razor from its original upside-down position and replaced in the right-side up position.
- ◆ Jim Camak showed a 1975 MCSC POSTEX '75 Program that he had obtained somewhere as a reminder of one of our shows from 40 years ago. He donated it to the club's archives.
- ◆ Mike Smith showed us a figure skating stamp that showed movement.

PROGRAM:

A Giant Mixture Pick was the club's program.

Meet 'n Eat:

Before the meeting several members met for dinner at the Spring Creek BBQ. Our next meeting will be on March 2, 2016 and those who want to, will join other members about 5:30 PM At Angelo's Steak and Spaghetti at 2590 W. Pioneer Pkwy. in Arlington.

Call-to-Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Smith at 7:35 PM at the Garden & Arts Center in Irving.

Attendance:

There were 7 members and 1 guest present, although the guest departed as the meeting started.

Officer Reports:

- ◆ Secretary – Mike Smith said when all is said and done, we should have around 90 members.
- ◆ Treasurer – Mike said our treasury was in good shape.

Committee Reports:

- ◆ Sales – Skip Ely reported that sales were at their normal slow pace for the beginning of the year, but we were covering expenses.

Announcements:

- ◆ New Club Business Cards – Mike said Peter Elias had revised the club business cards and handed out examples. Peter has added a QR code, which, when scanned with a smart phone, will take you to the club website.
- ◆ TEXPEX – Mike also mentioned TEXPEX, coming up February 26-28.
- ◆ Auction Next Month – Skip Ely reminded everyone of next month's Irving auction. Lots may be brought to the night of the meeting, although those turned in ahead of time will be noted in next month's meeting announcement.
- ◆ Programs – Skip asked if "the usual suspects" would be willing to do a program again this year. The following people agreed:
 - ◆ April – Skip Ely
 - ◆ May – Geoff Owens
 - ◆ June – Ken Wills
 - ◆ July – Auction
 - ◆ August – Jack Urish
 - ◆ September – Mike Smith

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Jack Urish had several items to share with the group.
- ◆ Ken Wills showed an old French advertising plaque with various postal rates for the time. He estimated it had been made between the two World Wars.

Door Prizes:

Gift Certificates were awarded to Jack Urish and Ken Wills.

Program:

The program was Clean Out Your Closet, although much of the time was spent discussing various items of interest. The meeting adjourned around 8:30 PM.

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

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

Wanted for MCSC Mixture Picks

Good US Material on Paper. We need commemoratives (32¢ to present “Forever” values), Airmails, Semi-Postals and high-value definitive stamps. Please no common stamps such as Christmas, Love and other “special” issues. The club will pay \$20 per pound for needed material and may pro-rate smaller quantities. Contact Bob Weidman at (817) 292-4954.

- NOTE -

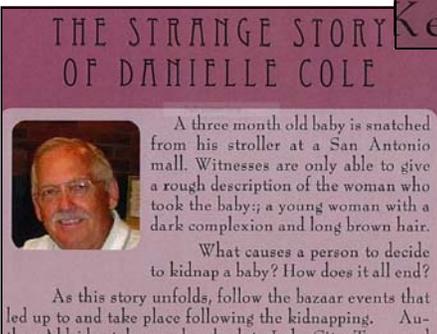
Donations of any US on paper are graciously accepted! 1/16

Ken Aldridge—Book 5

This is Ken Aldridge's fifth book, named “The Strange Story of Danielle Cole”. another crime novel featuring a Chief of Police who is also a stamp collector.

Ken will have autographed copies available at the Arlington meetings for \$10.

The books are also available on Amazon.com and on Kindle. If anyone would like the set of



Ken Aldridge

all 5 of his books, he'll sell them for \$40.

Please contact Ken Aldridge at KAldridge@aol.com for further information.

For Sale

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 \(1,700 items!!\)](#)
- [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
- [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- [4 Rings—The History of Audi \(Great for any car lover!\)](#)
- [St. Vincent Postcards](#) (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- [My Life on Wheels](#) (autobiography via USA personalized postage)

• [Vintage Swiss Postcards](#) (700+ from 1898 to 1959)
Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 4.95 each. Non-member price is \$9.95 (+ \$2.85 domestic or \$6.00 international postage) each. PayPal to peter@pcelias.com are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 4/14

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

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

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

U.S. Liberty Series precancels. Unsorted, on paper, quantities okay. Contact Gene Atkinson at 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 8/14

Why Do We Have Stamp Clubs

By Ray E. Cartier

When a need exists for gathering a group of individuals to share their common interests, someone will finally take steps to fill that need of establishing such a group. But why do we need a group of people with similar interests to gather together on a regular basis? In the case of philately it is to share experiences with others who have similar interests. Most people that each of us know are clueless about why people like us collect perforated pieces of paper. They can't fully comprehend the enjoyment that can be obtained by having such a hobby. When we try to explain, there is no interest in what we collect or why we do. But in a stamp club we are surrounded by others with like interests who are open to hearing about the area of collecting that interests you. No, we don't all collect the exact same things but we appreciate being with people who share this common hobby with its various fields of interest.

But there is more to it than that. Clubs help in other ways:

- ◆ They help promote stamp collecting for people of all ages. This is done through stamp shows and by tying with groups like the APS or ATA who help us with publicity. At our EXPO we have youth tables, mixture picks and a silent auction, and individual members are active in other efforts to promote the club and the hobby and what we do.
- ◆ They offer services to its members and to philately in general with the sharing of knowledge and by educating others into a deeper understanding of related interests which helps enhance the pleasure and friendliness of stamp/cover collecting. The price of a set of Scott's Catalogs exceeds most of our budgets for the amount of information that we each can derive from owning a full, up-to-date set, but you can use the set in our Club library at no cost. Some members bring a show and tell to our meetings, and we learn from talks by our members or guests. All of these are services that are yours because of your membership.
- ◆ They assist members in acquiring items for their individual interests. Our club offers mixture picks and APS stock book sales as examples. Fellow members often bring sale items for member's reviews. Some members donate items that are used in club sales that help our financial bottom line.
- ◆ They bring people together in social areas as well. Our annual picnic, assembling a one frame exhibit of single pages, and our Christmas party along with the building of teams to run our MCSC Expo are examples of this.
- ◆ They help members dispose of unwanted philatelic items.

Who are the "They" who do all of this? You know who "they" are. And "they" are doing this for you and the other members of our club.

Therefore members of stamp clubs should not ask only "What's in it for me?" but can also ask, "What's in it for the hobby?" and "How can I help our club to some extent?". Active members have a lot more fun. Think about what you can do to assist your club in some way. Bring a show and tell, exhibit a single page or larger exhibit, give a talk on what you collect, volunteer to help at our club stamp show or with our other activities. We need more "they" people to enhance the club for you and for others. Consider becoming a "they" this year to help your club continue.



Internet Stuff

By Peter Elias

A new internet portal site has been established at <http://www.stampontheweb.com>. It is founded by the AICPM (Italian Association of Military Post Collectors). While that may seem a fairly narrow field of collecting, the site itself is meant to be philatelically all-encompassing! There are links to 4,000 online stamp exhibits (these links primarily go to various philatelic societies which in turn have the actual online exhibits). There are links to hundreds of philatelic societies and specialized study groups around the world, philatelic libraries, magazines, experts, and so on. They are keeping the site simply (no flashy graphics, just basic uncluttered text). The site is located in Italy, however, the default language is English.

EXPO 2016: There Be Judges

Peter Elias

I am happy to announce that we now have a full slate of judges for our 2016 EXPO: Jeff Shapiro (Massachusetts), Dr. John Allen (North Carolina) and Dr. Stephen Washburne (Pennsylvania). We are happy to have them and give us the benefit of APS judging at our show! So, if you are not already a "regular" exhibitor, please consider doing so! We do have several people in the club that are willing to help you with the process. Contact Ray Cartier or Ben Termini if you have any exhibiting questions (and I will be available as well).

Postal Police

Peter Elias

In digging through my some old photos, I found the one below, that I took several years ago in front of the post office located on I-30, just west of downtown Dallas.

While I am of course aware of "Postal Inspectors", and that they do have the power to arrest you, I don't know what kind of vehicles they drive (which probably depends on whether it's "undercover" work or not...).

But I've never seen a Ford Crown Victoria "Postal Police" car! For what purpose? Pulling over a speeding mail truck? Mailmen on foot that are jay-walking? Pursuing mail snatchers? Inquiring minds want to know!



Exp. 12/16

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Exp. 12/16



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

← <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files>
or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm> →



stampsuniversal.com

Visit us at area Stamp Shows



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@ <http://www.stampsuniversal.com>

James D. Myers
P. O. Box 2047
Coppell, TX 75019
(972) 304-1671



Exp. 12/16

Wanted to Buy

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

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). 12/15

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

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

MEET & EAT for March & April 2016

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

- March 2 *Angelos Steak and Spaghetti*
2590 W Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX
(817) 303-7242
<http://www.angelosspaghetti.com/>
- April 6 *Jay Jay Café*, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington, TX
(817) 861-1060
<http://www.yelp.com/biz/jay-jay-cafe-nbr-2-arlington>

IRVING

- March 16 *Pappy’s Seafood*
831 North Beltline (south of 183), Irving
(972) 790-7650
- April 20 *Angelo’s Pasta*
1330 West Pioneer Parkway, Irving.

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

Don't Forget:
TEXPEX 2016 - Feb. 26-28
Dallas Postcard Show - Mar. 18-19

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Exp.12/16

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