

Stamp Chatter



SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB

OCT., NOV. & DEC., 2011 - Volume 48, #4, w 286 www.penpex.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Jim Giacomazzi, October 10, 2011

I'll bet that every general worldwide stamp collector has a country or topic that is special to him or her. It may be the country of your heritage, a country that you visited on vacation, or a topic that relates to your career or other important activity in your life. For my wife Cathy the country is Ireland (she's Irish) and her latest topic is airline etiquettes (she was a flight attendant for United Airlines for almost 39 years). For me it is the country of Venezuela where I served as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1965 to 1967. I lived in the beautiful city of San Cristobal, high in the Andes Mountains near the border with Colombia, where I taught PE in schools and served as the state basketball coach. Many items in my worldwide cover collection are letters I sent home to my parents while I was living in Venezuela.



Many Venezuelan stamps feature figures from its history, especially Simon Bolivar who is considered to be the liberator of the country. It seems that every town in Venezuela has a central plaza with a statue of Simon Bolivar, and even the currency is named after him. Venezuela had a very stable government and economy during the time that I was there. However, the country is very dependent on oil, and the collapse of oil prices in the 1980's coupled with huge external debts crippled the economy. Failed economic policies and political instability led to the rise of Hugo Chavez, who continues to serve as president today.



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CHATTER NEWSLETTER

Featuring: President Message, Upcoming Meeting Events, 12 Signs on Stamps by Marsha Brandsdorfer, The August Picnic, Stamps R US -The Sequoia Youth Club Members Top Awards, Carboose by Kristin Patterson and Phil A. Telick by Miriam.ST.

The Annual PENPEX Stamp Show - soon coming on DEC 3 & 4

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ROUTING: JIM GIACOMAZZI & MIRIAM

From the Editor of the CHATTER News by Hank Washauer

If anyone would like to write an article for this newsletter or submit or give ideas.

Nominations for 2012

Nominations of elective officers shall be made at the first regular meeting in November of each year. Nominations may be made from the floor in addition to those presented by the Election Committee.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB MEETINGS

On every Second & Fourth Tuesdays of each month meetings are held at Sequoia Stamp Club at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt St. Redwood City, CA - Starts at 7:15 pm

October 11 - Live Auction (4th Don Freeman Sale)

October 18 - Annual Pizza Party @ Mountain Mikes, Redwood City, 6:PM

October 25 - The Rangel Issues - Hank Shoolman

November 8 - Ed Rodriguez - (Nomination of Officers)

November 22 - Election of Officers - **Executive Board meeting**

December 3 & 4 - PENPEX Stamp Show

December 13 - Holiday Party

December 27 - **No Meeting**

Next meeting will resume January 10, 2012 dues of \$3.00 are due for the New Year

SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB OFFICERS - 2011

PRESIDENT - Jim Giacomazzi, VICE PRESIDENT - Hank Shoolman

SECRETARY - Tanja Ahrens, TREASURER - Richard Griffone

Appointed Officers and Standing Committee Chairmen

Director at Large: Ed Rodriguez and Hank Washauer

Librarian: LeRoy Harbaugh, Jr. - Sales Manager: Jim Mosso

Membership Chair: Hank Washauer - Program Chair: Ed Rodriguez

Auditor: Fritz Gelb - Youth/Beginners: Rich Coleman, Darlene Hickock



Live Auction: Steve Morger, Eduardo Martino, Jim Giacomazzi, Hank Shoolman, Wally Jolliff

Silent Auction: Richard Griffone, Steve Morger - Coffee Refreshments: Chris Thompson

Web master: Ed Bierman - Newsletter: Hank Washauer, Miriam Thurston, Jim Giacomazzi

Historian/Archives: Paul Swierstra - Public Relations: Jim Giacomazzi

Yearbook/Roster/Database: Hank Washauer - Nominating Committee: Hank Washauer

NorCal Council Rep: Hank Washauer - APS Representative: Jim Giacomazzi

PENPEX Coordination: Kristin Patterson - Sunshine: Joan Doherty, Darlene Hickock

Sequoia Stamp Club Executive Board Meetings will be held on the second meeting of the second month of the quarter at 6 pm, at the Community Activity Center, just prior to the regular meeting of that evening. These meetings are to be attended by all Officers and Board Members.

The meeting dates for 2011 are: Feb. 22, May 24, Aug. 23, and Nov. 22

CONDENSED MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS April, May, June 2011 Attendance is 45 more or less.

July 12: The Palestinian & Israel Conflict by Fritz Gelb.

July 19: Trends in Stamp Shows by Gil Goodrich.

August 9 : Live auction by members only.

August 16: We had a great turnout at our Annual Picnic.

August 23: Swiss for Youth by Leroy Bertsch.:

September 13: Swap Meet

September 27. Hank Washauer gave a talk about the PENPEX Before & Beyond.

President's Message (Cont'd) - By Jim Giacomazzi

Venezuelan stamps are interesting to collect. There are many topicals such as birds, animals, fish, orchids, and sports. Baseball is very popular in Venezuela as evidenced by Omar Vizquel and Pablo Sandoval playing for the SF Giants. During the period from 1951-54, Venezuela produced one of the largest sets of stamps ever issued featuring the arms of the nation, the federal district of Caracas, the twenty states, and the two federal territories. The total number of values in the series is 168 for regular postage and 216 for airmail. Since I collect used items, to complete this series has been a real challenge. An additional challenge is to find the "short 1" variety of the 10 centimos airmail stamp of which one is found on each sheet of one hundred. The illustrated pair shows a normal stamp along with a short 1.

From 1915 to 1942 official stamps were designed by applying a "GN" perforation to regular issue stamps. The illustrated stamp shows the GN perforation on a one Bolivar stamp. The stamp was printed on bluish Winchester security paper, making it almost unreadable. EFO's such as inverted and double overprints and imperfs abound on Venezuelan stamps, making for interesting collateral material. Local issues with abundant counterfeits make access to reference material and specialized catalogues a big asset.



As you can see, collecting Venezuelan stamps is challenging and fun, and it brings back fond memories for me of the time I spent there. I hope you have a special country or topic to collect, and that it gives you as much pleasure as collecting Venezuela does for me.

UPCOMING STAMP SHOW EVENTS

OCT 1 & 2 2011
WINEPEX, MARIN CTR,
10 AVENUE OF FLAGS, SAN RAFAEL, CA

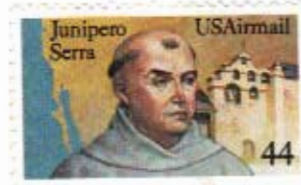
OCT 15 & 16 2011
EAST BAY COLLECTORS CLUB,
1375 CIVIC DR., WALNUT CREEK, CA

NOV 5 & 6 2011
SACRAPEX, SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE,
6151 'H' ST, SACRAMENTO, CA

NOV 12 & 13 2011
FILATELIC FIESTA,
SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS,
TULLY RD, SAN JOSE, CA

NOV 19 & 20 2011
COLLECTIBLES EXPO, SANTA CLARA CONV CTR.
5001 GREAT AMERICAN PKWY, SANTA CLARA, CA

DEC 3 & 4 2011
PENPEX
COMMUNITY CTR
1400 ROOSEVELT AVE. REDWOOD CITY, CA



TWELVE SIGNS ON STAMPS

by Martha Brandsdorfer

When I was twenty-three years old and living in Queens, NY, I corresponded with a legally blind man who lived in a small town in West Virginia. He told me that his town was so small that the post office did not have a mailman to deliver the mail. Everyone who wanted mail delivery rented a post office box and needed to pick up their mail when the post office was open. I do not know how true this was, as I never visited my friend at his small town. Nonetheless, he traveled to me on a Greyhound Bus where I met up with him one planned afternoon at Penn Station.

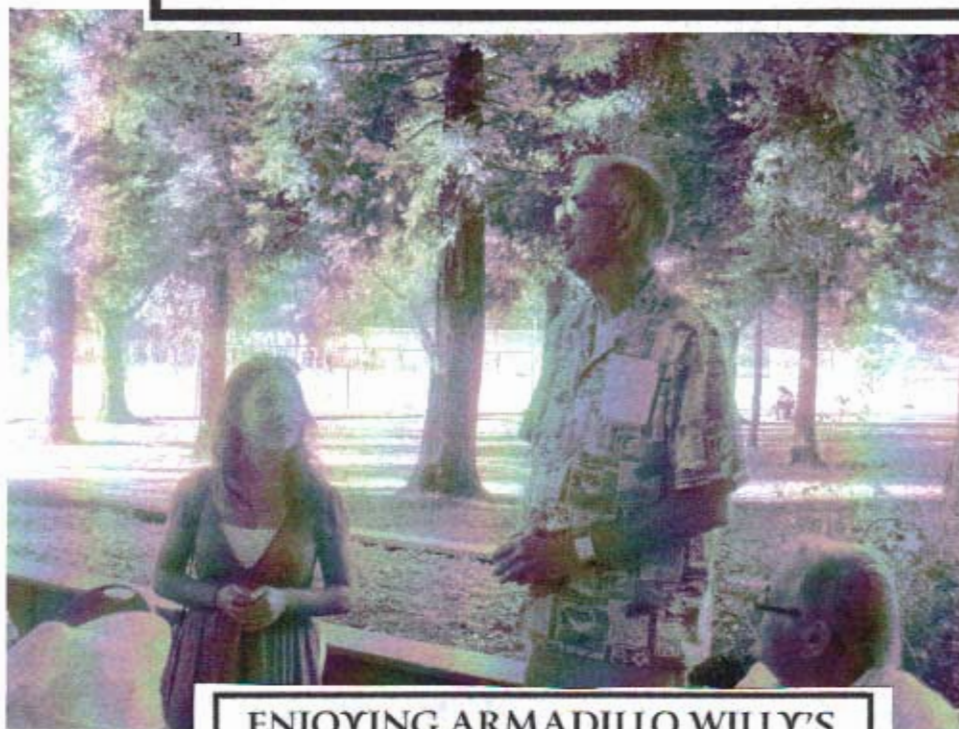
My friend and I communicated by cassette tapes, which he said he and I could send each other for free in the US mail, as long "FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND" was handwritten on the package in the upper right corner where postage would normally be placed.

One day he mailed me a package of about fifteen hour long cassette tapes and asked if I could buy a copy of Linda Goodman's Love Signs and read the book to him on the tapes. I resisted at first, telling him that it would not sound very professional with my Queens accent. However, he told me that he thoroughly enjoyed astrology, the study of how the Sun, Moon and planets in our solar system affect the characteristics of people depending upon when they were born. He wanted to listen to the book on tapes, and there was no other way to be able to do this. So, I agreed to the task and sat down mostly on weekends, free from work and read out loud for hours at a time, Linda Goodman's Love Signs.

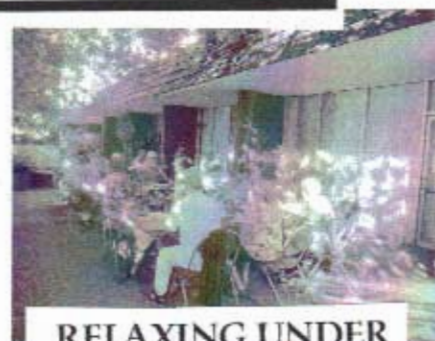
I learned in detail about the twelve signs of the Zodiac: Aries (the Ram), Taurus (the Bull), Gemini (the Twins), Cancer (the Crab), Leo (the Lion), Virgo (the Virgin), Libra (the Scales), Scorpio (the Scorpion), Sagittarius (the Archer), Capricorn (the Sea-Goat), Aquarius (the Water-Bearer), and Pisces (the Fish). These signs can be found on several international stamps. I have seen them on stamps from Israel and Switzerland. Below the twelve signs can be seen on 2007 mint stamps from Greece.



A GREAT PICNIC TURNOUT of the SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB MEMBERS
PHOTOS BY HANK WASHWAUER



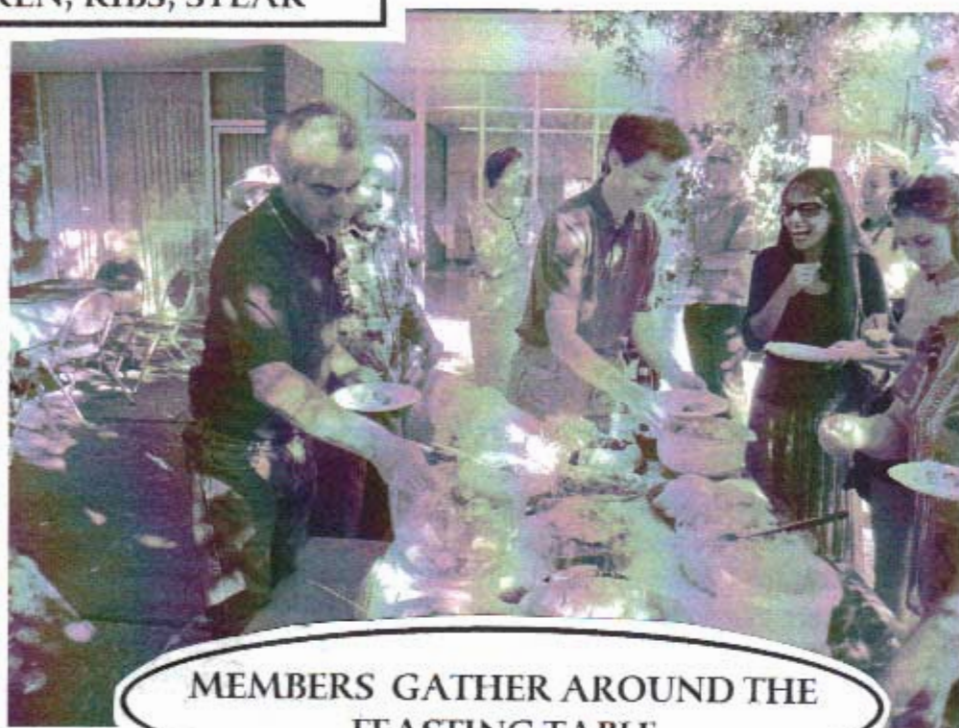
ENJOYING ARMADILLO WILLY'S
BBQ CHICKEN, RIBS, STEAK



RELAXING UNDER
THE SHADY TREES



LOTS OF POTATO SALADS



MEMBERS GATHER AROUND THE
FEASTING TABLE



WATCHING THE
JUNIOR LEAGUE SOCCER GAME
AT RED MORTON PARK

STAMPS R US NEWS

Richard Coleman, Acting Youth Chairman

Darlene Hickok, Youth Chairperson - Committee Members: Hank Shoolman, Gil Goodrich, LeRoy Bertisch, Richard Coleman, Kjell Elander & Darlene Hickock



Sequoia Youth Club Members Earn Top Awards at Fair

Dina and Sebrianne Ferguson of Redwood City along with their parents Roger and Nadine Ferguson attended the Aug 9th meeting of the Sequoia Stamp Club to show off the awards the girls earned from entering their stamp exhibits at this year's Santa Clara County Fair. Dina, who is 13, won a Star Blue Ribbon for her Australia collection and also for her topical collections of flowers, kings and queens, and Africa. Her 12-year old sister Sebrianne also won a Star Blue Ribbon for her U.S. collection, Best of Section 4-H Award, and Best of Show Ribbon in Junior



Stills category for ages 12 to 14. The girls are enrolled in Ocean Grove Charter school and both are members of Stamps R Us, the youth stamp club sponsored by Sequoia Stamp Club.

Sebrianne began collecting stamps at age 7 or 8. She was encouraged to start by her father who has an interest in early U.S. stamps. When asked why she likes collecting stamps, Sebrianne replied, "It reminds me of stickers, but it's better because it helps me learn geography. Some countries' names are different on stamps, and you have to look them up on a map to find them." She especially likes to collect US stamps, and also enjoys collecting dogs on stamps and stamps that celebrate holidays.

Dina collects mostly worldwide stamps, but especially enjoys collecting topicals such as animals, flowers, and dance. She began her collection after visiting the youth area of the 2010 PENPEX stamp show in Redwood City and meeting with Sequoia Youth group's Stamps R Us coordinator Darlene Hickok. Dina stated, "Collecting stamps is like trying to solve a puzzle because you have to find stamps that match the pages in your album." Dina and Sebrianne also belong to the El Sereno 4-H Club and are both active in dance. Both parents support their daughters' stamp collecting activities. Their mom Nadine said with a smile that while the girls were preparing their exhibits for the fair the family was unable to eat at the dining room table because it was completely covered with stamps.

The members of the Sequoia Stamp Club are very proud of the accomplishments of Dina and Sebrianne. Congratulations are also due to Darlene Hickok, Rich Coleman, Hank Shoolman, and all the members of the Sequoia Youth Committee for their dedicated efforts to instill the joy of stamp collecting in the younger generation. The Youth Committee will once again provide both fun and educational activities with free stamp give aways for youth and beginners at Sequoia Stamp Club's annual show, PENPEX, which will be held at the Community Activity Building at 1400 Roosevelt Avenue in Redwood City on Dec. 3 & 4. Be sure to stop by the show to see the exhibits, to look over what local dealers are offering, to make a bid in the silent auction, and check out the various activities offered in our youth and beginner area. For more information about the Sequoia Stamp Club, the Stamps R Us Youth group, or the PENPEX stamp show, you email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.penpex.org. or contact Sequoia Stamp Club president Jim Giacomazzi at 650-365-2956.

THE *Caboose*



Dear Philatelist:

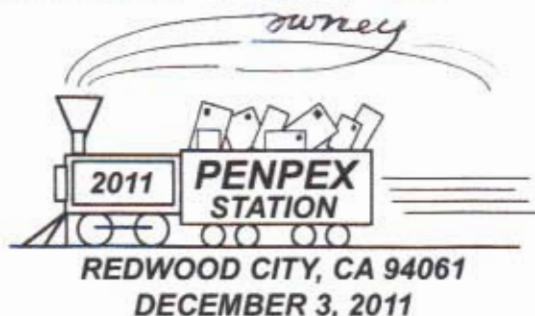
This will be the last Caboose before PENPEX 2011 which takes place December 3 and 4 at the RC Community Activity Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City. The dealers have been finalized with a complete list at www.penpex.org. Also available on the website are banquet information and the exhibit entry form. A new exhibit category that consists of 1 page has been created that is open only to Sequoia Stamp Club members. Each member can enter up to 4 individual entries. Get started now on your 1-page exhibits and when finished give them to Hank Shoolman who has all of them in a binder.

Sequoia members can sell their philatelic material in PENPEX's silent auction. Jim Mosso is now accepting material and has entry forms. Talk to him at a Sequoia Stamp Club meeting.

PENPEX is looking for someone to step up and manage the snack bar for 4 hours on Sunday. The snack bar comes fully stocked. Please contact Kristin Patterson if you can help all or part of the time.

During the October and November Sequoia Stamp Club meetings, Eduardo will be passing around signup sheets for setup on Friday afternoon and takedown on Sunday at 4 pm. If we get enough takedown volunteers, we will be done by 6 pm. Also, Tanja will be looking for volunteers to staff the welcome table and sell raffle tickets during show hours. If you are interested in attending the Saturday evening Awards Banquet, see Steve Sexton. Tickets are \$20 which includes appetizers, an entrée, sides, soda or coffee, dessert, tip and good conversation with friends. There will be a cash bar.

Lastly, Miriam Thurston is finalizing the PENPEX cachet designs. See inserted figure of the California Woman Suffrage Centennial cachet commemorating women gaining the right to vote in California. PENPEX will also have an Owney, the postal mail dog, show cachet. Each cachet will have a special show cancel. See below Owney show cancel.



California Woman Suffrage Centennial



PENPEX 2011 sponsored by Sequoia Stamp Club

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact PENPEX Chair Kristin Patterson at 408-267-6643 or penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com.

INTRODUCING A CARTOON CHARACTER

'Phil A. Telick'

Created by Artist, **MIRIAM S. THURSTON** (C) 2011

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To be featured in the CHATTER Newsletter

Phil IS OUR NEW STAMP CLUB MEMBER

Phil CAN PLAY DIFFERENT ROLES AS THE STAMP CLUB PRESIDENT, STAMP COLLECTOR, CLUB MEMBER, POST MASTER, MAILMAN, EXHIBITOR, JUDGE OR A STAMP DEALER.

'Mr. Telick' LOVES PHILATELY AND HIS PET SNAIL '4- EVER'



FYI

You must NOT wet or 'lick' old prized mint stamps!

Phil's grandchildren must have found out at one time that a stamp printing process had made attempts to flavor the glue (gum) on postage stamps. When licking the stamps to stick onto an envelope, it would have a taste of strawberry, mint and other flavors..

Perhaps this is why the kids wanted to help Grandpa Phil A. Te'lick' with his old mint prize stamps with their original gum?

HAVE YOUR CHILDREN LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO COLLECT STAMPS BY BECOMING A SEQUOIA YOUTH MEMBER AT "STAMPS R US KIDS"