

# Stamp



# Chatter

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Jan, Feb, March, 2017

## SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB

APS #687-54588

Club meetings are held every **second and fourth Tuesday** of each month at the Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, at 7:05 pm.

Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

More info at:

[www.penpex.org/ssc](http://www.penpex.org/ssc)

### Incoming President's Message:

I am honored to serve as Sequoia Stamp Club's President for 2017. We begin the year in a great position for growth, education, and fellowship thanks to the tireless work and thoughtful contributions of Craig Butterworth, Jim Giacomazzi, our other officers, and Governing Board, both in 2016 and in many past years. Our auctions, approval books, youth program, and other services run incredibly well. But this naturally leads me to think: what can we do in 2017 to enrich the club?



Here are some possibilities. During one meeting per month, I'd like to hear from those of you who are involved in national or international specialty societies such as USSS, USPCS, and others. Tell us about the activities of those groups, how you have participated, or something you have learned. If you're involved in analytical philately or other aspects of technical philately, teach us about it by offering a program presentation; we have a continuing need for program presenters.

Next, I'd like to hear from those who are connected to the live auction beat – either news about interesting material coming up at auction or your bidding successes. I'd like to hear about shows you've attended outside the area sponsored by APS, ASDA, or others. If you travel, tell us about your stamp-related destinations. I'd love to increase the percentage of Sequoia members who are APS members because APS is making a great leap forward right now. And finally, I'd like to see, at every other meeting, a display of stamps, covers or other material that you have collected. Even a single item is welcome for display so we can all learn more about what you collect.

Those are a few ideas from me, but I am also keen to know your thoughts about what you want from the club, so please let me know your ideas me via email at [chris\\_palermo95125@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com). The collecting hobby is stronger than ever and I'm delighted to join the journey with you in 2017.

Christopher J. Palermo  
Sequoia Stamp Club President-Elect

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### 2017 Sequoia Club Programs & Stamp Calendar Schedule

- Jan 10 – Inauguration of Officers. Past Presidents Present. Silent Auction.
- Jan 21-22: Great American Stamp Expo** – Napredak Hall, San Jose.
- Jan 24 – Live Auction. Christiansen/Larke Consignments.
- Feb 14 – Valentines on Postcards by Ed Bierman. Silent Auction.
- Feb 28 – Kiloware Night by Jim Giacomazzi. Silent Auction.
- Mar 14 – Joint meeting with Eire Philatelic Association and presentation on Irish philatelic topic. Silent auction.
- Mar 28 – Members Live Auction.

## Outgoing President's Message:

Thank you Sequoia Stamp Club! This great membership has allowed me to carry the mantle of President for the last two years, largely on the shoulders of others. All of you. I didn't do a fraction of what was actually (and seemingly) done to administer this club. I've tried hard not to let myself get in the way of a robust, smoothly functioning group of involved collectors. I look forward to the coming year. I will remain involved with planning programs, and will participate as a board member. I am also anxious to have a little more time to inspect the silent auction offerings! Good luck to this year's slate of officers, both old and new.

Craig Butterworth



## Photos from Recent Club Activities

taken by Ken Perkins



Miriam Thurston at the  
Pizza Party



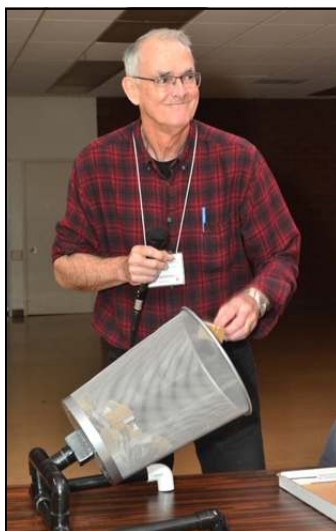
Peter Adams gives talk on  
music covers



Jessica Rodriguex at the swap  
meet



Chris Thompson & Erwin  
Schmidmeister look over items



Jim Giacomazzi picks numbers  
for Bingo



John Moore & Alain Ridard  
enjoy pizza

**Newsletter Staff:** Editor: Jim Giacomazzi, President's Message: Chris Palermo, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Graphics: Miriam Thurston, Caboose: Kristin Patterson, Youth: Preston Chiappa, Photographer: Ken Perkins, Printing: John Corwin, and Webmaster: Ed Bierman. The **Stamp Chatter** is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: [www.penpex.org](http://www.penpex.org) or email us at [sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com).

## The Yellow Rose of Texas

By Ken Perkins

In 2002 the U.S. Postal Service issued a series of 'Greetings From America' stamps, with designs resembling commercial 'Greetings From...' postcards. One of them, Scott #3603, honored the state of Texas. It features three iconic symbols of Texas: the Alamo, a longhorn steer, and in the upper right, the fabled 'Yellow Rose of Texas'.

Anyone who attended elementary school in the American West of the 1950s probably remembers singing 'The Yellow Rose of Texas', a light-hearted, easy to remember folk song. I was recently listening to my playlist while working (playing?) with my stamps when what should come around on the random shuffle but Hoyt Axton's rendition of the song (see <https://youtu.be/xoPQqPJ7fbQ>).

But wait a minute! This isn't the light ballad I remember. This is a tired, defeated Confederate soldier singing a sad song. And what's that last verse about?

*Now I'm going southward, for my heart is full of woe  
I'm going back to Georgia, to find my uncle Joe  
You may talk about your Beauregard  
And sing of General Lee  
But the gallant Hood of Texas played hell in Tennessee  
But the gallant Hood of Texas played hell in Tennessee*



A little research reveals that the 'Yellow Rose of Texas' has a long and varied history. The song was first published in *Christy's Plantation Melodies. No. 2* in 1853 and was sung by the Christy Minstrels, a white blackface singing group. Instead of the 'soldier' of Axton's song, the original identifies the singer as a 'darkey' who's longing for his 'yellow girl'. In fact, the first line of the 1853 version is: "There's a yellow girl in Texas...", referring to what was then called a 'mulatto', a mixed-race African American woman. So the original 'yellow rose of Texas' wasn't a flower, it was a woman. And the singer was an African American.

The song later became popular among Confederate troops of the Texas Brigade in the Civil War, with 'soldier' replacing 'darkey' throughout the lyrics. Confederate General John Bell Hood made it an official marching song upon taking command of the Army of Tennessee in mid-1864.

And that last verse? It cites Confederate heroes: "Uncle Joe" refers to Confederate General Joseph Johnston, "Beauregard" to General P. G. T. Beauregard, and "General Lee" of course to General Robert E. Lee. Marching in retreat to Tupelo, Mississippi, the remaining troops of the all-but-destroyed Army of Tennessee sang bitterly of "the gallant Hood of Texas" who led them to total defeat and the end of the Army of Tennessee as a fighting force in the Battle of Nashville in December of 1864.

General Hood relinquished his command in January of 1865. He surrendered to Federal troops on May 31 of that year.

The American Civil War ended in May of 1865.

For much more on 'The Yellow Rose of Texas', see the Texas State Historical Association at <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/xey01>



## What Makes Collectors Tick?

By Marni Jameson

What compels some folks to seek out stamps or baseball cards or coins? From Cracker Jack toys to manhole covers, the passion to collect goes back eons. The reasons are varied, according to Jim Halperin, co-owner of Heritage Auctions and a collector himself. Here's his list of 12 reasons for starters:

1. Knowledge and learning. Collectors are curious. They are students of their subject, and love learning about them.
2. The quest. For some, the thrill of the hunt feeds their drive to collect the rare and coveted.
3. Bragging rights. Many collectors like feeling proud of owning something sought after.
4. Control. Categorizing a group of like possessions makes some collectors feel as if they are bringing order to a part of the world.
5. The Darwin effect. Some evolutionary theorists have suggested that having a collection was a way for early man to attract potential mates, as it signaled his ability to accumulate scarce resources. (I like that in a man.)
6. Philanthropy. Many great collections are ultimately amassed so the owner can donate the lot to museums or universities for later generations to learn from, appreciate and enjoy.
7. Nostalgia. Childhood memories prompt many to collect items that remind them of their youths, or some connection to a part of history they want to preserve. Collectors of Pez dispensers, Barbie dolls and Civil War guns are classic examples.
8. Fandom. Sports fans may collect memorabilia to express loyalty. The same goes for those who collect items related to Disney, Elvis or "Star Wars."
9. Celebrity connection. Some collectors gather items that once belonged to famous (or infamous) people because these objects are seen as being infused with the essence of that person, which those in the business call the concept of contagion.
10. Relaxation. Like home gardening, collecting is a leisure activity that those who pursue it enjoy.
11. Social interaction. Collectors meet at swap meets and auctions where their shared hobby has formed the basis of many friendships.
12. To make money. Though many collectors lose more money than they make, some exceptions are notable. Halperin tells the story of his friend John Jay Pittman, a middle manager for Eastman Kodak, who invested much of his limited income in collecting coins. In 1954, to his family's dismay, he mortgaged his house to travel to Egypt and bid on coins at the King Farouk Collection auction. After he died in 1996, his family forgave him when the collection sold at auction for more than \$30 million.



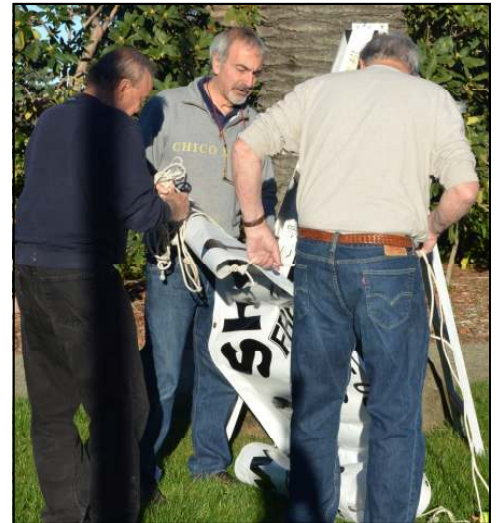
(Abridged from an article by Marni Jameson in the Home + Garden Section of the *San Jose Mercury News*, Sunday, June 12, 2016.)

# PENPEX CABOOSE

This year's PENPEX Stamp Show ran smoother than any in the past thanks to all the volunteers. Here are some photos of PENPEX 2016. Volunteers are invited to the Appreciation Brunch on Sat. Jan. 21 at 10 am at Sizzlers, 1011 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City.



Above: Setup crew (l-r) Chris Thompson, Eduardo Martino, Alain Ridard, Franz Kemper, Mike McGee, and Kjell Enander.



Above: Banner mounting (l-r) Erwin Schmidmeister, Eduardo Martino, and Alain Ridard.



Above: Preston and Angie Chiappa set up Youth Area.



Above: Ed Bierman mounting exhibits.



Left: Kjell Enander serving dinner to Friday helpers. Above: Jim Mosso. Right: (l-r) John Corwin and Richard Griffone covering auction tables.



All photos taken by Ken Perkins unless otherwise noted.





Above: PENPEX Sunday Snack bar servers (l-r) Annie Wong, Cathy Phalen, and Ken Lewetzow.  
 Below: USPS, Lawrence decked out in Star Trek attire on Sunday.



Above: Grace and her brother having fun with postage stamps in the Youth Area. Below: Awards Banquet (l-r) judge Dzintars Grinfelds, exhibitor Brad Fritts, and Vesma Grinfelds.



Photo taken by David Abrahams.



Left: Chris Palermo receiving SSC I-page exhibit prize from PENPEX Chair Kristin Patterson. Above: Miriam Thurston selling show cachets.



## The History of Bowling

by Marsha Brandsdorfer

In the contents of a grave of an Egyptian child, several objects were found, one of which was a stone shaped like a modern day bowling pin. This grave was dated about 3000 B.C. And approximately 56 miles south of Cairo, a room discovered by Italian archeologists was similar to a modern day bowling alley as it had a deep lane running across it, and several stone balls were found. This validates evidence that the game of bowling has a long history.



I visited the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in Arlington, Texas, and read Mark Williams' well researched Kindle book entitled, *Insider Bowling Tips – History of Bowling E-Book* to learn more. Apparently, different variations of the game of bowling were played in Italy, Germany, Canada, and England, and when Dutch settlers brought the game of bowling to America, their version used nine pins.



Whereas bowling had been played primarily outdoors for centuries, it later became popular as an indoor game so it could still be played during inclement weather. “Knickerbockers” was the first indoor bowling alley built in the United States, in New York City in 1840. Soon other indoor alleys followed as the game grew in popularity. Most early bowling alleys were small, and pin boys were used to reset the pins after each frame.

Several bowling organizations were launched, beginning as early as 1875 to establish bowling as a standardized sport. It eventually became a ten pin sport. In New York City, the American Bowling Congress founded in 1895, established uniform rules and equipment so they could be the same nationwide. Once rules were standardized, the popularity of the game spread.

Throughout the years, changes came about in bowling equipment to help improve the game, including changes in the style and uniformity of the shoes, the pins, the balls, and even the ball cores, which would help sustain the ball's balance when it was tossed down the bowling alley. The invention and use of the automatic pinsetter pushed pin boys out of the employment market, but it enhanced the game. The early machines were not the best, but within time, the machines got better and it became a huge success.

Bowling became so popular, that with the invention of television, it was to become a spectator sport as well. *Bowling Headliners* was the first show aired in 1949, wherein each professional bowler competed for monetary prizes. I remember *Bowling for Dollars*, which featured non-professionals. Bowling has been commonly featured in such TV shows as *The Honeymooners*, *The Flintstones*, and *Laverne & Shirley*. Bowling has also been shown in movies, such as *The Big Lebowski* from 1998, which has become a modern classic cult film, starring “The Dude” played by actor Jeff Bridges.

The popularity of bowling is featured as well on many international postage stamps, which can easily develop into a fun topical collection and would make a very interesting exhibit.



1847-1861



## PHIL A. TELICK & SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'

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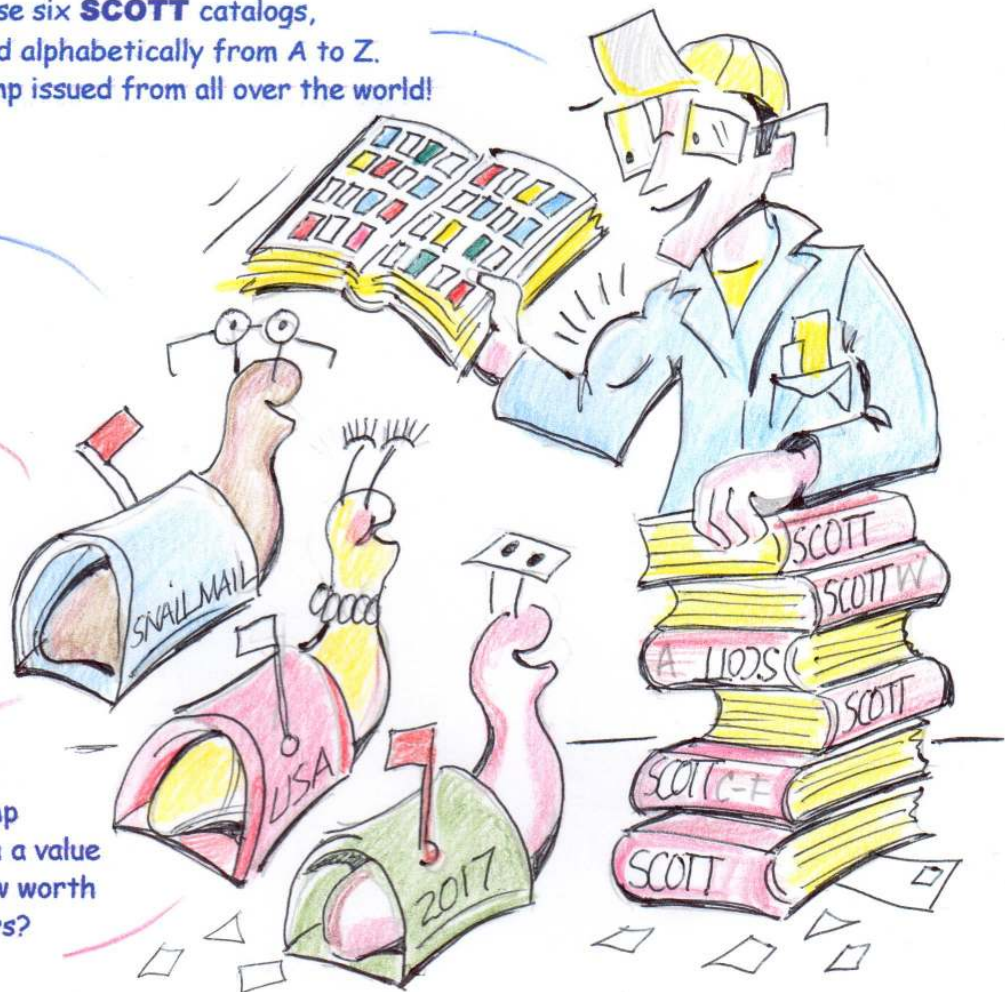
In each one of these six **SCOTT** catalogs,  
countries are listed alphabetically from A to Z,  
showing every stamp issued from all over the world!

Where are the  
Ryukyu Islands  
and Micronesia?

Boy, each book  
must weigh  
five pounds!

Is there a stamp  
with an image of  
a Snail? Yes!  
(A3137- 39c -USA)

You mean that the  
very first US stamp  
issued in 1847 with a value  
of five cents is now worth  
thousands of dollars?  
Yes! (A1- 5c -1847)



**FYI:** The *Scott Catalogue* of postage stamps, published by Scott Publishing Company is updated annually and lists all the stamps of the entire world which its editors recognize as issued for postal purposes. It is published in six volumes containing all the countries of the world that have ever issued postage stamps, plus the *United States Specialized Catalog*, and the *1840-1940 Classic Specialized Catalogue* covering the world for the first 100 years that stamps were issued. It has also been produced in non-printable CD, DVD, and online editions. The numbering system used by Scott to identify stamps is dominant among stamp collectors in the United States, Canada and Mexico.\* Scott catalogues are available for checkout from the Sequoia Stamp Club library, and many local public libraries also have books available for checkout or in library use. (\*From Wikipedia)