

Stamp



Chatter

Volume 47 - Issue No. 1 w303

Jan, Feb, Mar, 2016

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

In This Issue

Election Results -----	1
Stamp Calendar -----	1
Closed Albums -----	2
PENPEX Caboose ----	3
PENPEX Photos-----	4
Postal History-----	5
Twin Covers -----	6
Twin Covers (cont') --	7
Season of Sharing ----	7
Phil A. Tellick -----	8

Current Officers Re-elected for Another Term

At the meeting on Nov. 24, the current officers were unanimously re-elected by acclamation to serve another year. The voting confirms that club members are happy with the current administration. However, at the end of the year, there will be a need for other members to step up to take leadership positions. Please consider taking a turn to help our club continue its successful operation.



Club officers for 2016. Front: John Corwin (secretary), Craig Butterworth (president), and Ken Perkins (director). Back row: Jim Mosso (director), Kjell Enander (director), Jim Giacomazzi (vice president), and Richard Griffone (treasurer).

2016 Sequoia Club Programs & Stamp Calendar Schedule

- Jan 12 – Inauguration of Officers. Past Presidents Present. Silent Auction.
- Jan 16-17: Great America Stamp Expo**, Napredak Hall, San Jose, CA.
- Jan 26 – Christiansen Live Auction.
- Jan 29-31: [Gold Rush Paper Show](#)**, La Quinta Inn, Rancho Cordova, CA.
- Feb. 9 – Redwood City Postcards by Ed Bierman. Silent Auction
- Feb. 23 – Executive Board Meeting (6:15) Open to the public.
Philatelic Quiz by Wally & Ken. Silent Auction
- Mar. 8 – Member Live Auction
- Mar 12-13: FRESPEX**, Veterans Memorial Building, Clovis
- Mar. 22 – Buying and Selling on eBay by Jay Strauss. Silent Auction

Closed Albums

Darlene Hickok (April 15, 1948-Nov 27, 2015)

Darlene Hickok passed away on November 27, 2015 after a long battle with cancer. She grew up in Pescadero and worked for many years at Stanford University. Darlene joined Sequoia Stamp Club in 2001 after winning the treasure chest raffle at PENPEX 2000. She became a regular SSC attendee and by 2003 was elected Secretary. She continued as Secretary until the middle of 2014 when her endurance was waning due to her illness. She loved her stamps, and had a large worldwide collection going back to the 1840s.

Darlene will be fondly remembered for her work with the Sequoia Youth Group. She founded the "Stamps R Us" program in 2002 with just a few kids. She worked hard to have numerous projects for kids at PENPEX while developing the current Stamps R Us program that mails philatelic material to over 35 kids. Darlene served as PENPEX Co-Chair in 2004 and 2005 and served as secretary for seven years between 2005 and 2012 while running the PENPEX Youth Area. Darlene is survived by her husband Bill, sons Billy (Stacy) and Danny, and daughters Angie and Tracy. She was a devoted grandmother to Riley Hickok and Christian Gonzales. She will be missed.



LeRoy Bertsch

LeRoy unexpectedly passed away on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 11, 2015. He was 85 years old and he joined the club in 2005. LeRoy collected stamps from the United States and Switzerland, and he was especially happy if he could find a cancel from Basel where his grandson Patrick lived. LeRoy was a very active member of the SSC Youth Program, and both he and his wife Mary Grace worked the snack bar during the PENPEX 2012 show. The club will miss his good nature and his smiling face. May he rest in peace.



Leroy Harbaugh

It was with great sadness that we learned that Leroy passed away on Oct. 9, 2015. Leroy grew up in Redwood City and worked for the U.S. Postal Service for many years, as had his father before him. He joined the SSC in 1986 and earned Life Membership for his service to the club. He served as librarian for 15 years. He was an avid U.S. and worldwide collector, and an active bidder in our silent and live auctions. His other favorite hobby was antique cars, and he was an active member of the Mid Peninsula Old Time Car Club.



Newsletter Staff: Editor: Jim Giacomazzi, President's Message: Craig Butterworth, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Graphics: Miriam Thurston, Caboose: Kristin Patterson, Youth: Preston Chiappa, Photographer: Ken Perkins, Printing: John Corwin, Webmaster: Ed Bierman.

The **Stamp Chatter** is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: www.penpex.org/ssc or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

PENPEX CABOOSE

The saying "Great things come in small packages" exemplifies PENPEX. The free 2-day PENPEX 2015 show had 16 dealers including the USPS, 66 exhibit frames, an active silent auction, a youth activities area, and many people buying and socializing with others on both Saturday and Sunday. Each attendee got a magnetic, letter opener as free gift for signing in. Thank you to all volunteers.

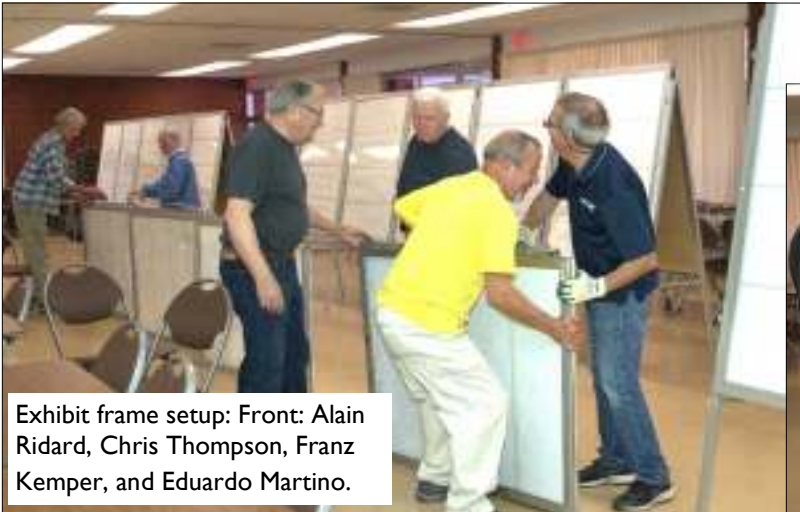


Exhibit frame setup: Front: Alain Ridard, Chris Thompson, Franz Kemper, and Eduardo Martino.



Alain Ridard and Franz Kemper.

Auction room setup: Jim Mosso, Richard Griffone, and Annie Wong.



Chair Kristin Patterson and Annie Wong preparing dealer lunches.



Dealer Doug Gary moving material in.



PENPEX judges Larry Crain and Ed Laveroni previewing exhibits on Friday evening. Photos taken by Ed Bierman and Ken Perkins.

More PENPEX 2015 photos, taken by Ken Perkins.



Upper left: Miriam Thurston showing her designed PENPEX cachets to Annie Wong. Upper right: Jim Sauer welcoming exhibitor Stephen Olson. Left: Tara and Johnny Nemeth examining the exhibits. Below: Cathy Phelan and Kjell Enander serving snacks to Eduardo Martino.



Left: Glenn Kasten with son Aden looking over the auction lots.



Above: Two of PENPEX '15 dealers: D&P Stamps and Wulff's Stamps. All PPX volunteers are invited to the appreciation brunch @ 10am on Jan. 16, 2016 at Sizzler's, 1011 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City.

See more photos and details at www.penpex.org.

Postal History and Its Involvement in the History of the United States

By Marsha Brandsdorfer



In *A History of America in Thirty-Six Postage Stamps*, author Chris West explains that before stamps, postage was paid by recipients. In 1840, England introduced the Penny Black stamp as a means for the sender to prepay the postage instead. The United States followed suit on July 1, 1847, when the first two U.S. stamps showed portraits of President George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. Benjamin Franklin was honored as he was the first Postmaster General in 1775. Jefferson Davis became the President of the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War and established the Confederate Post Office. He appeared on the first Confederate stamp.

To date, Davis has been the only living person on an American stamp. The only stamps close to breaking this rule are 2013 stamps showing live actors in their roles from the fictitious Harry Potter movies. President Lincoln was commemorated on a U.S. stamp a year after his assassination. Lincoln had experience as a Postmaster when he was just 24 years old in the small rural town of New Salem, Illinois. Franklin, Washington, and Lincoln have appeared on more American and foreign stamps than any other individuals.



In 1869, the first stamps not issuing a national figure were issued. One such definitive stamp commemorated the Pony Express. During its 18 months of operation, mail was carried by horseback through all types of weather conditions from Missouri to California. Once a railroad had been built, mail could be transported efficiently by train. Taking advantage of railroad parcels, in 1914, a young girl named Charlotte May Pierstorff was shipped by her parents in Idaho in the train's mail compartment for 53 cents postage, so that she could visit her grandparents 70 miles away. Charlotte made it to her grandparents' home safely, but after that incident, postal regulations were changed to prohibit the shipment of humans.

Airmail became the next newest challenging way to deliver mail. Some postage stamps were issued specifically for airmail delivery. The most famous error stamps are the Inverted Jenny Stamps, which is now one of the rarest stamp collectibles in existence. One stamp that might not have been distributed was the 4 cents commemorative Project Mercury stamp prepared in secret in February 1962, to celebrate Astronaut John Glenn's mission of circling the Earth on February 20, 1962. If something had gone wrong with the flight, the stamp would not have been issued. Fortunately, the mission was a success, and the stamp went on sale throughout the country.



In 1963, the United States Postal Service established new Zoning Improvement Plan (Zip) Codes to help with the post office's mechanical sorting of mail. In the 1980s, the United States Post Office increased the number of commemorative stamp issues, taking advantage of the fact that stamps were a valuable source of revenue. The continuing Black Heritage series is an example, so far with 38 individuals portrayed. Harriet Tubman, who was issued on a 13 cents stamp, began the annual series in 1978. Today, we can even create our own postage stamps. Using Zazzle.com, customers can upload their own photos from their computers to create their own unique postage.

Twin Covers

By: John Corwin



The above picture shows two covers that I entered in our stamp club's "Cover Contest" in October, 2014. I wasn't sure what category to enter them in, and so I decided to try "Oldest" and "Traveled the Furthest". But my two covers fell well short in each category: my 1911 cover vs. the winner's 1789 cover, and my 3239 miles vs. the winner's 21 million miles. However, I think the covers have some interesting stories to tell, both philatelically and historically.

I found these covers while cleaning out my parents' house in the summer of 2014. I call them "Twin Covers", because they are so similar to each other. Here are the similarities:

- Same postmark dates: March 13 and 19, 1911
- Same return address: Hotel Tivoli, Ancon, Canal Zone
- Same addressee: Mrs. B.N. Moss, Des Moines, Iowa
- Same type of envelope
- Same handwriting
- Same 2¢ Washington stamp
- Same 2¢ Postage Due stamp
- Same cancellation in Canal Zone
- Same postage due cancellation in New York

I wondered why there were two nearly identical covers, and fortunately, there were letters inside that told most of the story.

One of the letters was sent by my great grandfather, Berkley Nathaniel Moss, from the Canal Zone to his wife in Des Moines, Iowa. At that time, he was a civil engineer in the construction business, and he made a two-week trip to Panama to observe the construction of the Panama Canal in March, 1911. The trip was sponsored by the Isthmian Canal Commission, which was the U.S. government agency set up to oversee the construction of the canal, and it allowed him to meet with a couple of men who appear on Canal Zone stamps. General George Washington Goethals was the chief engineer in charge of the construction project; Goethals appears on several Canal Zone stamps, Scott numbers 106, 117, C3, and C5, as well as United States Scott number 856. Moss also met with Colonel David du Bois Gaillard, who supervised the construction of the Culebra Cut, which is also known as the Gaillard Cut. Colonel Gaillard appears on one Canal Zone stamp, Scott number 109, and the Gaillard Cut appears on several stamps including two stamps (Canal Zone Scott numbers 107 and 122) showing pictures during the canal construction as Moss might have seen it on his train trip along the canal route.

(Continued on next page)

(Twin Covers - continued from previous page)

The second letter was sent by his 17-year old son, Rex, who accompanied him on the trip. Rex wrote the letter to his mother at the same address in Des Moines. It is unclear why a teenager went along on this trip, but Rex later was in the construction industry.

Both envelopes were addressed by Berkley, and it is a bit puzzling why he sent them in separate envelopes although it is clear that he read his son's letter before sealing it in the envelope. Also, it is unclear why postage due stamps were applied in New York, because the postage rate from the Canal Zone to the United States in 1911 was 2 cents for a one-ounce letter, and each of these letters weighs just less than one ounce.

The 2¢ Washington stamps are each perf 12 from a booklet pane. But it is not possible to determine which watermark they have. The watermark could be double-line USPS (watermark number 191) or single-line USPS (watermark number 190). So, they are either Scott number 332a or 375a, both of which were in use in 1911. However, based on the postmark date (March 13, 1911), I suspect that the stamps are both 332a, because the Scott catalogue lists the earliest documented use of 375a as April 27, 1911, which is several weeks later.

Similarly, the 2¢ postage due stamps have either watermark 190 or 191 and could be either J39 or J46. Because the J39 stamp was issued September 14, 1895 (many years before the cancellation date on these covers), I suspect that they are J46, which was issued on November 25, 1910 just a few months before these stamps were applied in New York.

Of contemporary historical interest, the Panama Canal is currently undergoing a major expansion project so that it can handle much, much larger ships. The new canal is scheduled to open next year (2016).


These covers are not in very good shape, but they show a bit of interesting family philatelic history. I just wish my great grandmother had been more careful when she opened these envelopes!

Sequoia's Season of Sharing

Due in part to some generous donations over the past few years, the Sequoia Stamp club finds itself in a strong financial position. A committee was formed to recommend how we might share some of our good fortune with others. Guidelines used by the committee were to focus on local charitable efforts and to give to organizations that support philately. At its meeting in November, the Governing Board voted to make the following donations:

Samaritan House to help local people struggling with homelessness and hunger.	\$400
St. Anthony's Dining Room to help the needy and feed the hungry in the RWC area.....	\$300
Community Activities Building at Red Morton Park for purchase of new equipment.....	\$250
Redwood City Library Foundation for the Early Childhood Learning Center.	\$200
Lucile Packard Children's Fund for medical care for children & expectant mothers.....	\$200
Homework Central for tutoring and guidance for at-risk elementary school students.....	\$100
APS Stamps Teach program to provide philatelic educational materials to schools.	\$200
Smithsonian's National Postal Museum's Fund for Innovation and Excellence.	\$200

The Board also approved contributing up to \$300 to PENPEX to encourage attendance at the Awards Banquet. \$275 was authorized to purchase 10 tickets for the Masterworks Choral performance of Man of La Mancha in May. The tickets were then put up as raffle prizes for members attending the Holiday Party in Dec. The Board previously approved a \$500 scholarship to a Sequoia High School graduate in June, 2016. The award will be presented to a student who has been involved in stamp collecting or other similar hobby. The selected applicant will attend a meeting of the Stamp Club and speak to our members about how his or her hobby has enriched their life. As well as offering members philatelic and social enjoyment, it is nice to know that the SSC is also active in support of our local community.

World Stamp Show

 Mark your calendars for the decade's biggest stamp event!
 World Stamp Show-NY 2016
 May 28 - June 4, 2016
 New York City's Javits Center
 Get the details at ny2016.org

PHIL A. TELLICK
AND SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'
 By Miriam S. Thurston- All Rights Reserved C



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016

Come to New York for the biggest Stamp Show Ever 2016

Will it take "Forever" to get to New York?

Will we get to see the tallest buildings ??

I want to see the Statue of Liberty !

Do they have the biggest Post Office in New York?

There must be a "zillion billion" stamps available at this big stamp show!!

We could take the plane train or automobile?



FYI: The design of the 20 eye-catching stamps features intricate patterns of lines and ornamentation inspired by the U.S. Newspaper and Periodical stamps of 1865. A touch of patriotic color — 10 stamps are blue and 10 are red — emphasizes the location of this international exhibition: the United States. The circle in the center of the stamp design displays a five-pointed star. Text surrounding the circle reads "2016 World Stamp Show" and "New York City." The header on the stamp sheet reads: "JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL WEEK AT WORLD STAMP SHOW-NY 2016." Text on the back of the sheet provides details about the show. (https://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2015/pr15_049.htm)