



P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
in the Sparks Heritage Museum at Pyramid and Victorian Avenue



POST BOY

# N.S.S.S.

January 14, 2006

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Happy new years to all. I hope you had a safe and fun holiday and weren't the designated driver. To all of you who were designated drivers;

**THANK YOU!**

I've heard nothing but good news about the Holiday party at the Masonic Temple. Quite a few new faces arrived this year and **Dick's turkey** was great as usual. I'm glad to see that everyone had a good time. Kay Williams has asked me to thank all who were kind enough to set up the party and stay afterwards to tear it all down. So I say, a tip of the hat to all of you. Thanks!

We have another officer in the club, but its not one of ours Seems **Duane Wilson** has been appointed as the cachet director for the **USCS** (Universal Ship Cancellation Society) a society once headed by **Tom Morrisy**. It is Duane's respon-sibility to generate covers and sponsor Special Cancellations for the Chapter to commem-orate ship commissionings, an-niversaries, important nautical events, etc. Wow! Sounds like a lot of work to me.

In the November issue of the Post Boy it was announced that there might be a program on the Zeppelins from the GPS. That has changed. Instead, since there was some interest expressed, **Howard** will be giving a program on how to make

album pages on the Windows program which is most com-monly available to our mem-bers. You may be able to create these pages even if your computer is in the library. There was an album made just for this program. Come to this meeting and see what you can do.

This month I bring to you an article by **Tom Fortunado**, the director of the **Chapter Activities Committee** which is a branch of the APS. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Other similar articles will be forthcoming by various writers who have generously donated their work to the CAC for reprint in local newsletters such as ours. The first of these articles was printed in the September issue and continued in the October issue of the Post Boy.

The **Sacramento Stamp Fair** will be held Jan 14 & 15 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Ct. Hours will be 10-6pm and 10 - 4pm on Sun. [stampshows.com/sacramento\\_er.html](http://stampshows.com/sacramento_er.html)

On February 4 & 5 go to **San Francisco** for the **Stamp Fair**. Free admission at the Holiday Inn on 1500 Van Ness. Hrs; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5.

**NOVAPEX** will be held on March 4 & 5 at the Senior Citizens Hall, 2290 Benton Drive. Free admission. Hrs Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. [stampshows.com/redding\\_rsc.html](http://stampshows.com/redding_rsc.html)

## RATTLESNAKE ISLAND LOCAL POST



Recently there a write up about Rattlesnake Island local airpost, the only local airpost in the United States. Those stamps must be hard to get hold of. Scarce as hens teeth at least. Maybe, if you try buying the latest issues direct form the Rattlesnake Island airport, you might find yourself with a handful of “rare” stamps. It is possible to acquire theses stamps as the local air service has been started up again, as of September 23 of 2005. You can order stamps by the sheet or as singles. When they are mailed to you, for an additional \$1.75 (the face value of the stamps), they will place three of their stamps, tied to the envelope with an appropriate cancel, in the lower left-hand of the cover. Go to their website at; [www.rilpost.com](http://www.rilpost.com). or write to;

You will find Rattlesnake Island off the coast of Ohio in Lake Erie. The website will show you, along with a history of the war of 1812 as it involved their island, a map of the island.

RATTLESNAKE ISLAND LOCAL POST  
 c/o Griffing Air Service  
 Sandusky Airport  
 Sandusky, Ohio 44870-4417

## The Constellation stamps



The stamps on your cover today are from the “Constellation” series released last October. Hope you like them. Personally, I think they’re beautiful stamps. Unfortunately, there are only four of the zodiac signs depicted. There are eight more, so the odds are (2 to 1, against) yours isn’t one of them. Maybe the post office plans to bring the rest out as the constellations appear in the sky.

They have a small drawback, though, as reported in the pages of The APS magazine, “The Philatelist”, in the Letters to the Editor section. The writer says they crack when they are soaked. There are no suggestions what to do about it so, if you don’t want to keep them on cover, trim them closely and keep them “on piece”.

The last I heard, the stamp voted the most beautiful ever was the one dollar Trans-Mississippi issue of 1898. I know it's true because I saw it on a website. Personally, I don't agree. It's a nice stamp. It's an elegant stamp, but the most beautiful? What about the Beautify America setenant issue of 1969? How about the Winslow Homer stamp from 1962. Then there's the Desert Plants issues of 1981. Or, how about the many Nature series souvenir sheets from recent years?

There have been a lot of very attractive stamps issued since the turn of the last century and some of them are surely considered more beautiful than a monochromatic picture of a bull crossing a river. By someone. Perhaps you lean more towards modern art. You might like the Energy stamps of 1977 or the stylism of the Lincoln-Washington stamp of 1984. Nature? There's the Louisiana World Exposition of 1984. There are birds, flowers, ships, lighthouses, cartoons, space, patriots and pussycats. In other words, there are a lot of really nice US stamps out there.



It is often said, usually in a derogatory manner, "Your taste is all in your mouth." I agree. It's your taste, not some "expert" that's studied the arts or wine or whatever he/she is an expert in. You have to look at the picture or drink the wine and who is more expert in your tastes than you? With that in mind, how about a vote? Let's find out which stamp is truly the most beautiful stamp ever printed in the United States of America. Look through the catalogs, look through your collection and make a decision. Which stamp will it be?

I like; Year \_\_\_\_\_ Scott Catalog # \_\_\_\_\_

What's it called? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fill this out and return it to me. Copy this, fill it out and return it to me. Write down your choice on a separate piece of paper and return it to me. You don't have to tell me why you like it, liking it is good enough. The results will be printed in the next issue (maybe the issue after) of the Post Boy.

<http://my.execpc.com/%7Ejoeluft/>



## Welcome to my home on the web!

I am always looking for philatelic resources where I can find the information that I need. Information for my own collection or for the interest of others such as I try to offer in the Post Boy. On many sites the "links" page will often have a link for Joe Luft's page. I have gone to it many times and have been less than impressed. Recently I went to that site and it seems to have changed. Here was a simple page. One with only eight links. Three of those links are for e-mail, one is for his daughter's web page and another is for an inlaw's web page (Coca Cola collectors). On two of the three links left, Joe Luft is selling stamps (discount postage and early US). The remaining link is called "Philatelic Resources on the Web". Oboy, does that one open a world of philatelic resources. The first page alone (called "New Additions") has a hundred sites to visit.

At the top of the page, just below the advertisements are two boxes. The first one is "search". Type in the subject you want to look up and it will take you there if he has something on that subject. I typed in "Azad Hind". Guess there aren't too many pages for stamps of the Indian rebellion, however, it does search through 4,214 links that are listed with Joe Luft's site. Do you have a website? You are invited to join the group. Would you like a philatelic search engine on your web page? Click on the link and add it on. It's his search engine, just give him credit.

The second box has a drop-down menu that starts off with the opening page. You may use the menu or look through the new additions. At the end of each description for the various sites is a link that will take you to which ever category the site fits in. Ten categories are offered including "General Resources", "Downloadable Images", "Collector's pages" and "Commercial Offerings". I clicked on "Software" and found sixty-one sites. Who knew there were so many for software? I checked "General Resources" and found over three hundred more. Then, twelve hundred "Commercial Offerings". If you don't find it here, it probably doesn't exist.

While I was underwhelmed the first several times I visited, it was only because I didn't use it right. The site hasn't changed, I have. Amazing, as old as I am I am still learning. It turns out that Joe Luft has built a marvelous site that will bring treasures to anyone who travels it's pages. Go to the computer now and take a look. If you haven't tried it before, you're in for a pleasant journey. If you have tried it, go back and explore it again. You may find some new additions.

Okay, so this quiz won't be as easy as last month's, but still, it won't tax you too much. Grab a cup of hot chocolate (make it a "Snuggler, if you like), topped with mounds of whipped cream and a dash of cinnamon, sit back, relax and work this one out.

1. Ignacy Jan Paderewski is the subject of a 1960 stamp. What musical instrument did he play?  
A) Lute                      B) Trumpet                      C) Piano
2. The first man to land on the moon appears on a ten cent stamp for 1969. What is his name?  
A) Neil Armstrong      B) Yuri Gagarin              C) John Glen
3. The 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations with what country was marked in 1982?  
A) Great Britain          B) France                      C) The Netherlands
4. Giuseppe Garibaldi appears on the 1960 Champion of Liberty stamps. What country did he come from?  
A) France                      B) Italy                          C) Uruguay
5. The first airmail flights came in 1918. Between which two cities did they fly?  
A) NYC and Philadelphia    B) NYC and Washington    C) NYC and Albany
6. A five cent commemorative marked the 300th anniversary of the colonization of an eastern state. Which state?  
A) New York                  B) New Jersey                  C) Maryland
7. "Breezing up" is featured on a 1962 stamp. Who Painted it?  
A) Winslow Homer          B) Gilbert Stuart              C) Grant Wood;
8. What issue of 1901 signaled the dawning of the industrial age?  
A) Trans-Mississippi      B) Pan American issue      C) #'s 300-313
9. Who is on the twenty-one cent stamp of the the 1938 definitive set?  
A) James A. Garfield      B) Chester A. Arthur          C) Grover Cleveland
10. There is an Amphitheater outside Washington DC on a six cent stamp. What is it?  
A) Wolf Trap Farm, VA    B) Maryland Arena              C) New Jersey Colosseum

OK. That last one is tough. Which six cent stamp? What year? Get it and earn another 100 Auction Bucks for next November.

## It's OK to be a Generalist!

by Tom Fortunato  
Chairman, APS Chapter Activities Committee  
(from the 5/95 issue of the Baltimore Philatelist)  
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I'm responding to an article by Reverend Edward Mullowney in the last issue of the Baltimore Philatelist (March, 1995). His basic premise is that this is the age of specialization, whether it be inside or outside the world of philately. I do agree with many of his points. In fact, I doubt there is a stamp collector out there who does not specialize in some facet of our great hobby, including me!

However, sweeping aside the general collector as an "endangered species" is an inaccurate view point. I am president of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors, some thousand members strong residing in over 45 countries around the glob. Our members believe that worldwide collecting is a worthwhile pursuit and deserves recognition from organized philately.

Just because we worldwide collectors haven't been vocal about our interests doesn't mean that we are facing extinction. In fact, I dare say that there are more worldwide collections in the closets of "specialists" than you might think! The typical scenario probably hits close to home.

How many of you started off collecting U.S. stamps as youngsters? After a while, you probably became bored filling up all the spaces in your beginner's album with the common stamps and needed a new challenge. Perhaps a postcard from a vacationing relative with an unusual foreign stamp on it started you on the road to a worldwide collection. If you were very lucky, a relative helped you along or there was a neighborhood or school club keeping the "fire" alive. The process of growing up often meant that time for hobbies was minimal at best. How many times has the fire been rekindled by rediscovering that long forgotten collection years or decades later?

A generalist has many advantages over those who specialize. Worldwide collecting provides a rock-solid foundation for what used to be called social studies. It teaches foreign languages, culture, geography, and history, broadening one's perspectives from "me" to "we" in a truly global sense. From a philatelic angle, it provides the very stepping stone of knowledge to specialize. After all, how many collectors know exactly what they want to collect from the get-go?

After years of neglect and ridicule, worldwide collecting is finally gaining the respect it deserves. Supply companies and dealers are recognizing the potential we offer. Scott's has recently issued its first Classics Catalogue, catering to those who prefer the first hundred years. Two new album makers have just published works for the classic and modern issue collectors alike. Dealers love worldwidors like me, as we always have something to buy... and unlike specialists, can stay within a budget. No one is forcing us to buy all those expensive stamps. We buy what we want and leave empty spaces whenever we have to without feeling guilty about it.

Finally, think of all stamp collectors as attendees at a great sit down dinner. We all have a seat at the table, but the specialist can never get past the first course. Worldwidors get a chance to sample a little of everything from soup to nuts, and can always go back for seconds without getting full!

If you'd like to learn more about the smorgasbord the ISWSC offers, write to me for an application. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Write ISWSC, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester NY 14615-2022 and don't forget to mention the Baltimore Philatelist.

And a P.S. from the Editor (Joe Foley): I'm a general collector myself and a member of the ISWSC. The organization has an unusual provision in their dues structure: members are also asked to donate 250 different collectible, undamaged stamps per membership year for the ISWSC Youth Program. This is one group that is really doing something about the future of our hobby!



## Removing Old Hinges

(from stingraystamps.com - sadly gone now)

"Mint stamps sometimes have hinge remnants on them. They can be easily removed. Some early hinges are very stubborn and can't be removed, but the majority of hinges can. First you will need a nice quality artist's paint brush (or a Q-tip/cotton swap - aj.). Turn the stamp over, gum side up. With a small amount of saliva, wet the brush and keep "painting" over and over the hinge on the back of the stamp. Do not over wet the hinge, be patient. You use saliva over water because you can control the amount of saliva and not the amount of water. Eventually, you will see the hinge start to buckle in some places. Carefully using tongs start pulling up the hinge from the stamp. If the hinge sticks, stop pulling with the tongs at once and apply more brush strokes to the hinge where the tongs stuck. Wait a few more seconds and slowly remove the hinge. Take a piece of clear pliable plastic and place to the side. After the hinge is removed, grasp it with your tongs and hold it in front of your mouth. Breathe on the stamp with your hot breath and say the word Hah! the same way you would if you were about to clean your eyeglasses. Take the plastic and cover the spot where the hinge was. Take the back of your tongs near the top and rub it back and forth over the area where the hinge was, but covered by the plastic. Wiggle the plastic back and forth until it comes easily away from the stamp. You will notice the gum now has a lightly hinged appearance instead of an unsightly hinge remnant."



There is a fine line between "collection" and "addiction." On the other hand, no one has yet to be arrested for "driving while under the influence of stamp collecting."



Why's Uncle Adolph sitting in a tree? I don't think he's k-i-s-s-i-n-g. He was found in this tree on Scott # 909 (Germany, 1963) with his top hat on. Maybe he just wants to go to church!

