

# Nevada

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  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp/>



Stamp  
Study  
Society

## N.S.S.S.

## POST BOY

December 1, 2007

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Its the last month of 2007 with holidays coming up. A little snow on Christmas day would be nice, or on whatever day your holiday happens. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

We all had our usual jolly time at the **Auction Bucks Auctions** and went home with many things we wanted, or at least we thought we wanted.

As it is the holiday season, the museum has plans for the weekend of our next meeting and needed us to hold that meeting elsewhere. **It was decided by members present not to have a meeting on November 24th.** Our next meeting will be held on January 12th, 2008. It is our practice to have the **Christmas party** in lieu of the regular first meeting of the month and skip the second meeting as it would fall during the holidays. The **Christmas party** will be held on the first of December at the Masonic Temple. The party will begin at 6:00pm. The address is 601 W. Peckham. Turn west on Peckham off Virginia Street. It's six blocks on the corner. You will find a map on page 8. Have fun at the party.

I just heard from **Stan Cronwall**. His hip operation was quite successful however he had a fall and twisted the new socket out of place and had to return to the hospital to have it fixed. The

result is he will not be able to come to the **Christmas party** this year. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say he will be missed. Still, he should be able to come to the next meeting on January 12th.

**PENPEX**, December 1-2. Sequoia Peninsula Stamp Clubs, Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City.



The image is from Grenada #392. It is "Madonna and Child" by Bouts.

*Merry Christmas  
to all*

## **Biblical Proof of Santa Claus**

By Elf Ed Zachary

### **The Bible says that Santa exists!**

This startling revelation comes to us at the North Pole in the form of a letter from a scientist, Dr. Jasper Bumgartner. Here is the full text of what he wrote:

Dear Sirs,

In the interest of scientific integrity I must admit to the recent discovery of evidence suggesting the existence of Santa Claus that pre-dates even Jesus Christ!

In researching for another project I stumbled upon an Old Testament reference from the Book of Zechariah. After checking the ancient text for translation accuracy, I am convinced that this verse is actually speaking of the famed and, some say, fabled, Santa Claus. In Zechariah 2:6 it reads:

"Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the Lord: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the Lord."

This verse suggests that the beginning of Santa Claus was sanctioned and sponsored by Deity and could, in fact, mean that the many mystical powers attributed to Santa Claus (the ability to get around the world in one night, to know who is naughty and nice, etc.) may have been granted and sourced from God.

That doesn't mean I'm buying it, fellas. I just find it interesting that Santa gets a mention in the Old Testament.

I am a scientist and my job is to question. So I share this discovery with the proviso that I am not yet a believer and the burden of proof still sits with you to show the world that Santa is in fact real.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jasper Bumgartner, PhD.

Well, well -- an interesting development indeed!

Oh, we've known about the Bible verse in the often-neglected Book of Zechariah for a long, long time. I just have never told you about it because, well, Santa doesn't like to toot his own horn. But when a hotshot from the scientific community writes to us and

honestly declares his surprise at the discovery it means he is on the road to belief in the Big Guy.

Of course, the fact that we received this two weeks before Christmas has nothing to do with the fact that old Jasper wants a new telescope from Santa for Christmas. Noooooo. Just because the good doctor sends us a letter by the light of his Christmas tree doesn't mean he is making a death bed confession or anything like that. I don't suspect he's hedging any bets at all.

No, what gets me is the fact that he would pen a letter, stamp it, and send it north to where he says we do not exist. Why would such a great and respected mind do that? Why not send this letter to the White House or to some great University? Why send it to the North Pole?

Because he would get laughed out of the snooty academic circles he walks in, that's why.

But we're not going to quibble over this. The verse is right there in the Bible for anyone to read. Go ahead, look it up.

Then hang your stocking.

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[Merrynetwork.com](http://Merrynetwork.com)

**News Flash! EXTRA, EXTRA!!**

## **Rudolf is a girl!**

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year (the only members of the deer family, Cervidae, to have females do so). Male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers until after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen . . . had to be a girl.

We should've known that when they were able to find their way.

<http://merrynetwork.com/>

The Merry Network is a “family” of 32 unique websites dedicated to the promotion of Christmas. In their own words “Our mission is to provide the most compelling holiday content available”, and its all G-rated.

The front page starts us off with, what else, the news. It is, of course all the news about Christmas and not all is light and sweet. There is an article about Mrs. Fields cookies. They don’t mention Christmas on their product because they don’t want to offend anyone (Christians excluded), but not to worry. The American Family Association, who went after Wal-Mart for the same kind of thinking, and won, is now challenging the cookie corporation!

While there are such stories of serious intent, some are also a bit tongue-in-cheek like the story on page 2 of this publication called the “Biblical Proof of Santa Claus” which came from this site. Beneath the news headlines are “Christmas links”. On this page they offer you a chance to join their site. As a member you have the opportunity to meet others from all over the world who have the same passion for the Christmas season as you. There are also other perks you will get as a member.

At the top of the page are more links to; “Home” (the page you’re on), “News”, “Sites”, “Affiliates”, “Contact” and “Jobs”. Had to look at “Jobs”. You can be a writer, webmaster or Director of sales, assuming you are qualified, and interested. I recommend that you click on “Sites” because that’s where you’ll find what you’re looking for, including a Santa update.



I found only one drawback to this site. The pages were slow to load. That could be a problem with my dial-up connection. I will have to modernize one of these days. The rest of the site was fun, though a bit commercial but that’s how you get the director of sales paid (if you want the job). I enjoyed visiting the site and I hope you will too.



Where has the time gone? Here it is December and again I am doing this silly quiz. Its a good way to start the new year after having spent all your Auction Buck bucks at the auction last month. This quiz is not really about stamps but so what? Its Christmas so its about Rudolf.

1. Rudolf is a girl because?  
A) Male antlers fall off in winter    B) She's not a boy    C) I said so!
2. What color was Rudolf's nose?  
A) Glimmering Red    B) Glistening Carmine    C) Glowing Rose
3. Did Rudolf have antlers?  
A) Of course, she's a girl    B) Yes, well duhh!    C) And a nice pair too
4. What was Rudolf's last name?  
A) Reindeer    B) The red-nosed "\_\_\_\_\_"    C) Who cares
5. Where does Rudolf live?  
A) The North Pole    B) At Santa's house    C) North of Nevada
6. Where is the North Pole?  
A) 83.28N, 45.49W    B) On top of the World    C) North of Nevada
7. What does Rudolf have for breakfast?  
A) Bacon and eggs    B) Cheerios    C) Purina Reindeer Chow
8. Who does Rudolf work for?  
A) Father Christmas    B) Santa Claus    C) Saint Nicholas
9. Who made Rudolf famous with a song?  
A) "the Singing Cowboy"    B) Gene Autry    C) Orvon Autry
10. What is Rudolf?  
A) Ruminant mammal of the family Cervidae    B) A deer    C) A reindeer

Orvon Gene Autry was the one who started the concept of the "Singing Cowboy". Roy Rogers came along later and used the idea just like many other cowboy heroes of the time. He is also the only celebrity to have five stars (one in each of the five categories) on the "Walk of Fame" on Hollywood Boulevard. Of course you know he sang "Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer", "Frosty the Snowman" and "Here Comes Santa Claus" but did you know he also did "Ghost Riders in the Sky" and "South of the Border (Down Mexico Way)"?

How much do you know about Rudolf? Enough to score well on this quiz, I hope. In any case, you had an opportunity to learn something about everybody's favorite fantasy animal.

1. **A, B, C.** If you read the story ("News Flash", page three) then you would know that Rudolf should be called Rudolfa or Rudolfina.
2. **A, B, C.** All of these colors are red or variations of red so you got this one right.
3. **A, B, C.** Rudolf, or Rudolfina if you will, is known, by those who have actually seen her, to have a fine rack of antlers. After all, she is a girl.
4. **A, B, C.** Hmmmm, the full name is "Rudolf, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" so it stands to reason, if you care at all, that her last name is "Reindeer".
5. **A, B, C.** It is my understanding that Rudolf lives with Santa Claus at the North Pole which is somewhere north of Nevada.
6. **A, B, C.** The north Pole is located at longitude 83.28 North by latitude 45.49 West which is on top of the world and somewhere north of Nevada.
7. **A, B, C.** What does Rudolf have for breakfast? How should I know. Who asked such a stupid question anyway? I guess I'll have to give you credit for this one too.
8. **A, B, C.** Based on the research I have done on the internet through Wikipedia and my computer in the World Book encyclopedia (learned how to spell that from Jiminy Cricket), these three men are all the same person and using these aliases depending on which country they happen to be visiting at the time. Something's fishy here.
9. **A, B, C.** The man we know as Gene Autry was born Orvon Gene Autry in Tioga, Texas in 1907 but dropped the first name for his acting and singing career. He started in radio (1928) as the "Yodeling Cowboy" and later became the first of the Singing Cowboys in those B westerns he made.
10. **A, B, C.** Rudolf is a ruminant with split hooves like sheep and specialized stomachs like cows. Rudolf is also a deer or, more specifically, a reindeer.

I hope you did well on the quiz (I'm sure you did if you answered all the questions). I try to make these quizzes tough enough to make you think about the answers and maybe make you do a little research. By the way, is this the right spot for the answers? Shouldn't I put them in a different issue? Well.....I'll try to get it right next time. Merry Christmas.

## Christmas in Africa

Preparation for Christmas in the Congo begins when some group is designated to prepare the annual Christmas pageant.

Christmas day begins with groups of carolers walking to and fro through the village, along the roadway, by the houses of the missionaries, singing the lovely carols known the world around. Often people may be awakened by a group of carolers beginning to converge on the house of worship. They return home to make final preparation as to the clothes one must wear and also as to his offering for the Christmas service.

The most important part of their Christmas worship service is the love offering, this is the gift in honor of Jesus. Then at about 8 or 9 o'clock everyone makes their way to the celebration of the birthday of Jesus. Everyone who attends the service goes forward to lay down their gift upon the raised platform near the Communion table. Not one person will attend the service without giving a gift.

Christmas in South Africa is a summer holiday. In December, the southern summer brings glorious days of sunshine that carry an irresistible invitation to the beaches, the rivers, and the shaded mountain slopes. Then the South African holiday season reaches its height. Schools are closed, and camping is the order of the day. In South Africa there is no snow, but it has many flowers, many beautiful varieties of cultivated and wild flowers being in their full pride.

In the cities and towns carolers make their rounds on Christmas Eve. Church services are held on Christmas morning. Christmas Eve celebrations in larger centers include "Carols by Candlelight" and special screen and floor shows.

Homes are decorated with pine branches, and all have the decorated Christmas fir in a corner, with presents for the children around. At bedtime on Christmas Eve, children may also hang up their stockings for presents from Father Christmas.

Many South Africans have a Christmas dinner in the open-air lunch. For many more, it is the traditional dinner of either turkey, roast beef, mince pies, or suckling pig, yellow rice with raisins, vegetables, and plum pudding, crackers, paper hats, and all. In the afternoon, families go out into the country and usually there are games or bathing in the warm sunshine, and then home in the cool of the evening. Boxing Day is also a proclaimed public holiday usually spent in the open air. It falls on December 26 and is a day of real relaxation.

In Ghana, on Africa's west coast, most churches herald the coming of Christmas by decorating the church and homes beginning with the first week in Advent, four weeks before Christmas. This season happens to coincide with the cocoa harvest, so it is a time of wealth. Everyone returns home from wherever they might be such as farms or mines.

On the eve of Christmas, children march up and down the streets singing Christmas Carols and shouting "Christ is coming, Christ is coming! He is near!" in their language. In the evening, people flock to churches which have been decorated with Christmas evergreens or palm trees massed with candles. Hymns are sung and Nativity plays are presented.

On Christmas Day, children and older people, representing the angels in the fields outside Bethlehem, go from house to house singing. Another church service is held where they dress in their native attire or Western costumes. Later on there is a feast of rice and yam paste called fufu with stew or okra soup, porridge and meats. Families eat together or with close neighbors, and presents are given.

On the west coast of Africa, in Liberia, most homes have an oil palm for a Christmas tree, which is decorated with bells. On Christmas morning, people are woken up by carols. Presents such as cotton cloth, soap, sweets, pencils, and books are exchanged. Also in the morning a church service is held in which the Christmas scene is enacted and hymns and carols are sung. Dinner is eaten outdoors with everyone sitting in a circle to share the meal of rice, beef and biscuits. Games are played in the afternoon, and at night fireworks light up the sky.

# To the Christmas Party



While this map isn't perfect it is pretty accurate as far as where the streets end. For instance, Clover Way comes up short of Peckham and Peckham doesn't go all the way to Plumas. North is the top of the map and south is the bottom.

The easiest route is Virginia to Peckham to Grant, park the car and have a good time at the party. You can also take Grant, Lakeside or Warren from Moana but not Clover. Baker also reaches all the way to Peckham. If you're on Plumas, go to Moana then Grant and turn right. The party is where the big red X is. Don't get lost in the streets south of Peckham.

Have fun at the party and drive safely.