

# Post Boy

June 2015  
Volume 48, Issue 6

## Nevada Stamp Study Society

**MEETS THE 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM AT THE SILVERADA ESTATES CLUBHOUSE  
LOCATED AT 2301 ODDIE BLVD. (BEHIND THE SAK'N SAVE AT ODDIE AND SILVERADA.)**

### Officers:

**President:** Stan Cronwall  
[president@renostamp.org](mailto:president@renostamp.org)

**Vice President:** John Walter  
[webmaster@renostamp.org](mailto:webmaster@renostamp.org)

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[secretary@renostamp.org](mailto:secretary@renostamp.org)

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[treasurer@renostamp.org](mailto:treasurer@renostamp.org)

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Nadiah Beeken  
[nadiah@renostamp.org](mailto:nadiah@renostamp.org)

**Junior Representative**  
Travis Fey

### Upcoming Events

**June 27** - Regular meeting with consignment sales (up to 10 items per member), and a philatelic program by Howard Grenzebach titled "Goop Your Stamps." Now sure what that needs - need to attend the presentation and increase your philatelic knowledge.

**July 11** - Regular meeting with stamp auction (up to 10 items per member).

**July 25-26** - Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show at the National Bowling Stadium. There are 13 confirmed dealers (all the tables are booked). More show information is at: <http://renostamp.org/show.html>

**August 8** - Annual picnic at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse beginning at 10 a.m. The 2015 elections will take place at the picnic.

### Elections

The annual elections are fast approaching. The positions open are: President (2 year term), Treasurer (2 year term), and two Directors (3 year term). Nomination forms are available at the meetings and on the website: [http://renostamp.org/pdf\\_files/2015%20Nomination%20Form.pdf](http://renostamp.org/pdf_files/2015%20Nomination%20Form.pdf)

### Wanted: Post Boy Editor & Volunteers

The Post Boy is in need of an editor. Marla is working full-time and busy with multiple family issues and cannot continue as the editor. John Walter has volunteered to publish the next two issues for June and July.

As it appears that there are no volunteers for the elected position of President, John will assume that position in August. John will need to resign as V-P, which leaves that position open. The V-P term is for one more year. The Board can appoint someone to fill the position. As all this plays out, John would have the following duties: President, Webmaster, Donation Chair, Stamp Displays at Vassar PO and local libraries, and Show Committee advertising. It does not seem fair to add the Post Boy editor since the club has many members that enjoy the meetings yet don't help in other matters to keep the club functioning smoothly.

Please consider volunteering for, at most, a few hours a month that will enhance your enjoyment of your favorite hobby.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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# Using a USB Microscope for Stamp Identification

by David Parsons



This is a synopsis of the presentation at the May 23, 2015 NSSS meeting. Use of USB microscopes is a fairly recent development for stamp collecting. While magnifying glasses and scanners can accomplish many of the functions of these microscopes, the USB Microscope offers the following advantages:

- Easier to see details with less eye strain or bending over
  - No waiting for scanner lamp warmup or proper placement on scanner
  - Ability to quickly examine batches of stamps to sort differences
  - Allows users to easily take a .jpg photo of area of stamp in question and save it
- Provides vehicle to share examples with other collectors for education or trading

The microscope used for the demo was the: **Plugable® USB 2.0 Handheld Digital Microscope with stand for Windows, Mac, Linux (2MP, 10x-50x Optical Zoom, 200x Digital Zoom)**. It can be found on Amazon.com for \$39.99. In searching Amazon for “USB microscope”, there were many different options, all using the same basic microscope (made in China). The Plugable microscope was selected based on reviews of the software included and because the provider seemed to have superior customer service. On Amazon, the price for similar models ranged from about \$15 to over \$100. Options had differing support stands. Some of the less expensive models may work fine, but were not evaluated in this process. It is unknown whether any local vendors carry USB Microscopes.

The unit itself is about 5 inches long and 1” in circumference. There is a focus wheel, LED lighting system which can be adjusted for intensity, a camera shutter button, and a lens cover (which needs to be removed prior to using!). The microscope has a USB cable that is hooked into a computer. Software is provided via a CD or downloaded from the vendor’s website. Software is straight-forward and allows for pictures or videos to be taken, allows for changing screen resolution, date/time inclusion, language selection, and measuring/drawing tools.

While advertised as 50X Optical Zoom, the 50X can only be obtained by placing the viewed object within the scope tube- a process not viable for viewing stamps which for the most part are larger than the inner tube dimension. Placing the tube right over the stamp allows the user to get about 24X magnification which is fine for most philatelic uses. By increasing the screen resolution, additional digital magnification can be achieved. The scope comes with an included stand which allows the user to hover above the stamps so as not to touch the stamp and to provide a stable platform for photos. However, when moving further away, the optical magnification is reduced. To view the whole stamp, the user must devise another way to elevate the stand so the scope can take in the whole stamp image.

The microscope is advertised as a Zoom. However the Zoom is only achieved by the user moving the scope closer to the object but this is not a Zoom obtained by lens manipulation like in a zoom camera. One use of the microscope is to look for minor variations in stamps. For example it is possible to look for Type differences and secret marks, and to take a photo of these varieties. For example, the **photo on the right** shows a Type III 2¢ Red Washington where the horizontal lines do not enter the outer triangle.



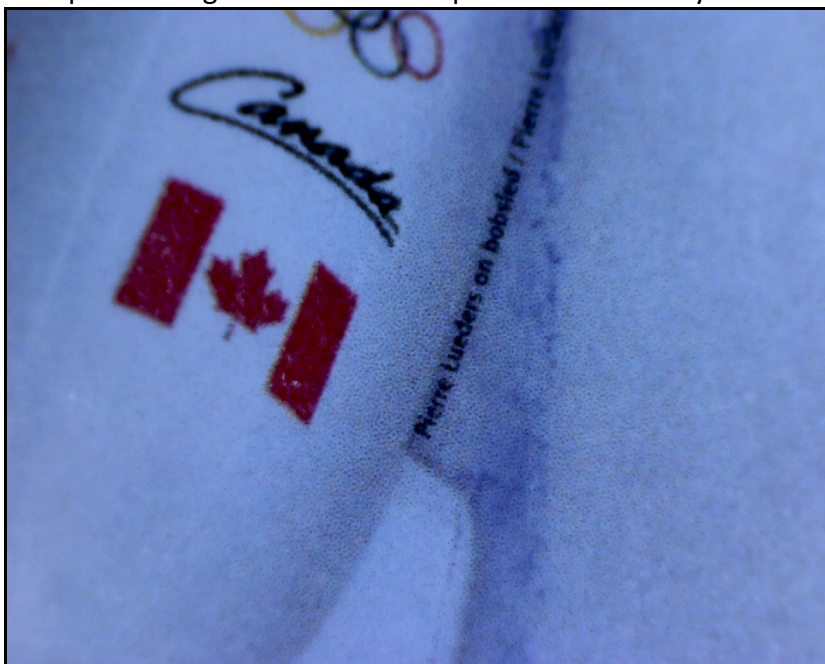


A question had been asked at an earlier meeting- “How can you tell the difference between photogravure and lithography produced stamps?” With the USB microscope the difference is easily distinguishable. With photo process the edges of numbers and borders have a more ragged/bumpy appearance while the litho stamp has a clean/sharp look. On the Machin stamps below the stamp on the right is clearly a result of the lithography production process.



By using the USB scope the collector can quickly sort through large lots of stamps more easily than bending over a magnifying glass. Stamps can be laid out in an array and the scope can be moved rapidly from stamp to stamp looking for distinguishing characteristics.

The scope can be used to look for microprinting on more modern issues. The stamp at left below shows a Canadian bobsledder's name in very small print which would be very hard to see with a magnifying glass. The stamp on the right has USPS microprinted on a Tiffany Glass stem.







The microscope aids in detecting printing errors. The **stamp on the left** is the 2¢ Columbian Stamp #231 with a broken frame line in the lower right corner.

A question arose about using the microscope for measuring perforations. After the meeting, and many tries later, the author was unsuccessful in getting an accurate determination of perforations. The measuring tool could only achieve results within .3 to .5 of the stated perforations.

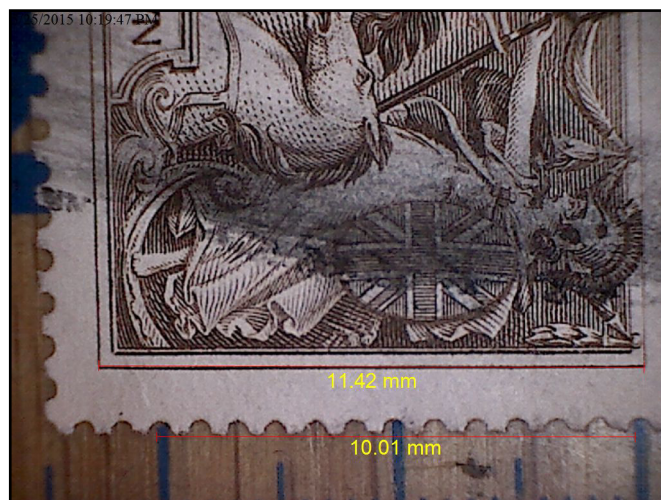
The software touts the ability of measuring stamp dimensions or certain areas in the stamps. With some experimentation it was possible to come up with a good measurement, however, there was a much trial and error in the process and it was not straightforward. The **stamp below** was a GB #179 with a vertical size of 22.75mm.

The lower reference line showed that the scale of 20mm was measured at 10.01mm by the program. The actual stamp frame line was shown as 11.42mm. Converting the 11.42mm into reference units

using the formula  $11.42/10.01 \times 20$  gives a frame measurement of 22.82mm which is near the published size and enough to differentiate the stamp from the more valuable #173 which measures 22mm high (Rats- I could use a 173!)

There are other more viable digital tools to determine accurate perms and measurements but perhaps these can be discussed at another time.

The USB Microscope can also be used to look for re-gummed stamps and to closely examine postmarks or other small details that differentiate one stamp from another.



In conclusion, the USB Microscope has proven to be a valuable tool for the author's collecting needs. It has allowed more rapid sorting of bulk stamps and has been useful in looking for small variances from stamp to stamp. ■



Mo and Steve Foster examining stamps.  
May 9 meeting.



Howard with his new hairdo. The gossip was that he has a (new) girlfriend.



*The Nevada Stamp Study Society was incorporated on August 5, 1975. This year is the 40th anniversary of that event. Part of the celebration is looking back at some of the earliest Post Boy newsletters.*

From the February 1985 Post Boy:

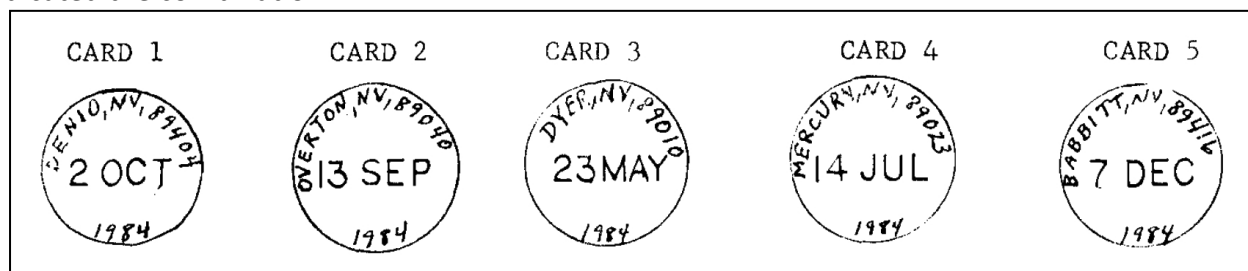
## The Key To The Safe

by Doug Willick

ASTI NOTUP was a stamp collector who belonged to the APS, ATA, RPS and the NSSS. He was independently wealthy and had a large collection of stamps that he wanted to protect, but he did not want to put them away in a bank vault where he would not be able to look at them and enjoy them whenever he wanted to. Therefore, he had a large walk in vault installed in his house and that is where he kept his stamp collection.

However, Asti had one little problem. Through some quirk of nature, he was unable to remember numbers and he wanted a safe that had a combination lock and not a key, as he was afraid he might lose the key. Then he hit upon an ingenious solution that would remind him of the numbers to the safe.

He sent a postcard to the postmaster of the following Nevada towns and asked them to send them back to him on the indicated dates. When the cards returned to him, he affixed them to the door of his safe and they indicated the combination.

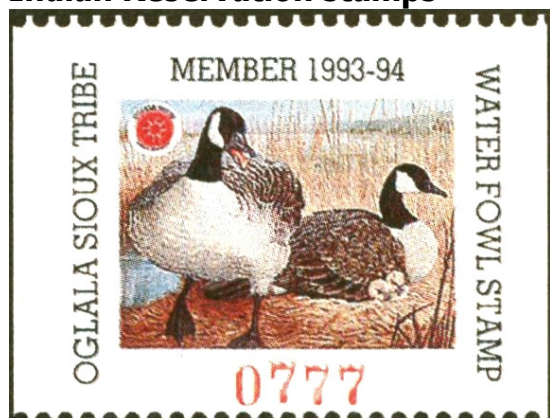


Can you solve the mystery of the combination to this safe? The combination has five digits, just like a ZIP code. Remember, single digits.

Why don't you test your philatelic knowledge and see what answer you come up with.

**COMMENT:** Doug's answer did not appear in subsequent issues of the Post Boy. So come up with an answer and we can discuss it at the next stamp club meeting. ■

## Indian Reservation stamps



One of the more arcane U.S. collecting areas is Indian Reservation stamps.

Owned and operated by an Indian tribal authority under the auspices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the reservations are outside of the administrative control of the state in which they are physically located, and often exempt from many of the state laws.

Since 1959, hunting, fishing, and conservation stamps have been issued by a number of tribes for the reservations they control. The stamps were often issued in very limited numbers. Some are quite valuable, although most sell at some discount from catalog value.

The designs range from utilitarian typeset to beautiful illustrations of wildlife. The 2015 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers has a partial listing of some stamps, particularly those relating to the hunting of waterfowl, but at this point it is still a work in progress.

If you want to get serious about collecting this area, you should obtain a copy of A Comprehensive Catalog of Indian Reservation Stamps edited by Michael Jaffe.



If you just want a taste to see what it is like, the Pine Ridge (Oglala Sioux) Indian Reservation \$4 Canada Geese waterfowl stamp (Scott 3) might be a good place to start. The Scott Specialized U.S. catalog values the stamp in mint never-hinged condition at \$11, and it is a good buy around \$7.

*Linn's Stamp News*, May 11, 2015, p. 42, "Stamp Market Tips"

**Comments from John Walter:** Looking in my 2011 Scott *Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers*, I did find a section on Indian Reservations. I had no idea this section existed in the catalogue. The reservations listed in my 2011 issue are (with # of stamp issues): Cheyenne River (8), Colville (2), Crow (1), Crow Creek Sioux (89), Flathead (23) Fort Berthold (16), Fort Peck (4), Jicarilla Apache (1), Lake Traverse (Sisseton-Wahpeton) (15), Lower Brule (43), Pine Ridge (Oglala Sioux) (3 stamps in BKL pane), Rosebud (17) and Standing Rock (7).

The cheapest, in used condition, is \$3 from the Flathead Indian Reservation, and most expensive stamp was \$18,000 in MNH condition (\$4 black 1977) from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. For some issues there was the familiar (—) in the pricing column which means no information available or no price lists exist from dealers.

This statement in the catalogue makes me think more information will be coming - "Stamps for other reservations exist and will be listed after more information is received about them."

The stamp club members would enjoy a presentation on the topic. If anyone has any of the Indian Reservations stamps in their collection, it would make a great "Show And Tell." ■

## Calling All Exhibitors

According to the exhibit chair, there are only 2 exhibits submitted for the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show on July 25-26. There is serious talk of NOT having judged exhibits for the show. This means the exhibit frames will have only non-judged collections or previously judged matter that has not been changed since last judged. If you want to exhibit and maybe have questions, please contact the chair at: [exhibits@renostamp.org](mailto:exhibits@renostamp.org) or call Terri Edwards at 246-4769 as soon as possible. ■

**Brief report from the June 13 meeting:** Dave Gehringer's wife, Susan, made some great embroidered shirts with the NSSS logo and "40 Years" across the logo. The shirts had to be pre-ordered at the May 23 meeting. Susan will be out of town and cannot make any more shirts before the stamp show. She can also make the shirts with just the NSSS logo. Email Dave for more information at: [ds-ginger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ds-ginger@sbcglobal.net)

Betty Mudge was the raffle announcer for the 10 prizes and the final 50-50 money prize won by George Ray worth \$10.50. Congratulations to all the winners.

The "penny boxes" were re-organized by Dave Parsons who removed many damaged/faulty stamps and separated the stamps by country. Betty Mudge is also helping with the organization. Eugene Smoots is handling the overall penny boxes. Give him a call if you are looking for something in particular or if you want to start a new collecting area. At 2-cents a stamp, the price is right.

The auction had 60 items plus a Blue sheet (donated) item with Gary Atkinson and Dave Gehringer performing a tandem announcement for each item. It was a lot of fun to watch. Richard Simmonds assisted the auctioneers to keep the items in order and delivery to the new owners. ■

**Thoughts on making the Post Boy enjoyable to read. Need:** Someone to write a short summary of each meeting with announcements, raffle prize winners, and any gossip. Someone to snap a few pictures at each meeting since John Walter might be busy at the front table come August. To increase the interest in consignment and auction items, members need to research their new items and write a short paragraph for the Post Boy and reason they purchased the items. Even if the item was purchased because it "looks pretty."

By the way, I put this 6-page Post Boy together in just a few hours. I already had the three articles and the rest was done on the fly, as they say. John Walter

## JUNE POST BOY QUIZ

Compiled by Stan Cronwall

1. On November 15 1974, USPS released its first self-adhesive stamp which was issued for Christmas mail. It depicts the weather vane on George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. What bird is on the vane?  
a. a Dove                      b. a Turkey                      c. an Eagle
2. The U.S. authorized Motor Vehicle Use revenue stamps in February 1942. How long were these used?  
a. They were never issued              b. Discontinued in 1946              c. Phased out during the Korean War.
3. The U.S. issued its first stamp booklet in what year?  
a. 1895                      b. 1898                      c. 1900
4. On January 12, 1932, the U.S. issued a set of 12 stamps commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington's birth. Values ranged as follows:  
a. ½ cent to 10 cents              b. ½ cent to 50 cents                      c. ½ cent to 20 cents
5. June 22, 1943 was the date of the first release in the series of U.S. stamps picturing the flags of the enemy occupied countries. The first issue was for which country:  
a. Austria                      b. Philippines                      c. Poland
6. On October 1, 1946 U.S. domestic air mail saw a reduction in the rate to 5 cents. The previous rate enacted during World War II had been:  
a. 8 cents                      b. 10 cents                      c. 15 cents
7. May 27, 1902 is the earliest known use of the so-called "Garbage Card", a 1 cent U.S. Postal Card featuring a full-face portrait of President McKinley. The production had proved unsatisfactory and the Postmaster General ordered the entire printing to be destroyed. However, one box of 500 cards was sold to the New York firm of Booth, Daly & Ivins for use by the firm's garbage captains in reporting locations and condition of garbage barges or dumpers. Hence their name. The cards are correctly classified as "prepared for use but not issued". Is this a true story or . . . ?  
a. False                      b. True                      c. Post Office fable
8. On August 14, 1934, the first in a series of U.S. Migratory Bird Hunting stamps, commonly known as Duck Stamps, was issued. It had a denomination of \$1.00 and had to be affixed to a hunting license and signed by the holder of the license. The stamps are issued for what period of time:  
a. the next calendar year                      b. the duck hunting season only                      c. July 1 and become void on June 30 of the following year
9. The U.S. mail train was re-born on October 30, 1984 when a special mail-only train began to run between Boston and Washington, D.C. The trains are specifically scheduled to meet USPS requirements and run Tuesdays through Sundays carrying first-class, second-class and express mail with principal intermediate stops at New York and Philadelphia. Monday's mail is carried by a regularly scheduled AMTRAK train. The northbound train was named *The Fast Mail*. The southbound was named:  
a. the *Mail Express*                      b. the *Half-Fast Mail*                      c. the whole story is false
10. The United States Postal Service came into existence on July 1, 1971. It was formed from the US Post Office Department in an attempt to place mail operations on a more modern and efficient basis. To commemorate the event, a stamp was issued. What was the denomination?  
a. 10 cents                      b. 13 cents                      c. 8 cents

# Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show OFFICIAL EXHIBITION ENTRY FORM

**Mail completed and signed form and check for fees to: T. Edwards**  
**22 Hilltop Drive**  
**Carson City, NV**  
**89706**

1. I have read and agree to the Rules and Regulations on the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show Exhibition Prospectus. I hereby apply to enter my exhibit in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.

2. Title of Exhibit: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Description of exhibit: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is this a **Silver State Challenge** exhibit (received vermeil or higher at a WSP show)? ☐ Yes  
☐ No Show name: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Adults: Number of pages \_\_\_\_\_ requiring \_\_\_\_\_ frames at \$8.00 per frame Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Juniors  
 (Juniors - Age) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian Approval Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

6. My exhibit will be ☐ sent by \_\_\_\_\_, insured for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or ☐ hand  
 delivered. Please return my exhibit by ☐ USPS or ☐ (specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

7. I authorize the use of my name in the program ☐ Yes ☐ No. (Check one).

8. I have ☐ have not ☐ exhibited before.

9. I am a member of the following philatelic organizations ☐ APS, ☐ ATA, ☐ AFDCS, ☐  
 NSSS ☐ OTHER (specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Remittance enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Frame Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Novice  
 Entry Return and Insurance Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Please print or type): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* \* FOR EXHIBITION COMMITTEE USE ONLY:

Date Exhibit Received:		Number of Pages:	
Mounted By:		Taken Down By:	
Awards and Ribbons:		Date Returned:	



# Stamp Shows

You may retrieve additional stamp show information from the APS website.

<http://stamps.org/DisplayPage.aspx?id=64>

**June 19-20, 2015**

## **OKPEX**

**Oklahoma**

**National Show**

**Sponsored by:** Oklahoma City Stamp Club  
**Event Location:** Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110  
**Contact:** Joe Crosby, [joecrosby@cox.net](mailto:joecrosby@cox.net)  
**Phone:** 405-749-0939  
**Website:** <http://www.okcsc.org>  
**More Information:** View show's WSP listing, includes exhibition winner list and future dates.

**June 26-28, 2015**

## **Sacramento Gold Rush Paper Show**

**California**

**Bourse Only (no exhibits)**

**Event Location:** La Quinta, 11131 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova, California 95670  
**Contact:** Mark Baker, [mark@goldrushpaper.com](mailto:mark@goldrushpaper.com)  
**Phone:** 530-647-9025  
**Website:** <http://www.goldrushpaper.com>

**July 10-12, 2015**

## **ASDA Northern California 2015 Postage Stamp Show**

**California**

**Bourse Only (no exhibits)**

**Sponsored by:** American Stamp Dealers Association  
**Event Location:** The Westin Hotel, 1 Old Bayshore Hwy., Millbrae, California 94030  
**Contact:** Mark Reasoner, [asda@asdaonline.com](mailto:asda@asdaonline.com)  
**Phone:** 800-369-8207, ext. 4  
**Website:** <http://www.americanstampdealer.com>

**July 25-26, 2015**

## **Northeast Postal History & Ephemera Show**

**New York**

**Bourse Only (no exhibits)**

**Sponsored by:** Capital District Associates  
**Event Location:** Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany, New York 12205  
**Contact:** Thomas Auletta, [geolotus2003nycap.rr.com](mailto:geolotus2003nycap.rr.com)  
**Phone:** 518-877-3027  
**Website:** <http://www.nphes.com>

**July 27-31, 2015**

## **Volunteer Work Week**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**Pennsylvania**

**Volunteer Work Week**

**Sponsored by:** American Philatelic Society  
**Event Location:** Hosted at the American Philatelic Center, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823  
**Contact:** Gretchen Moody, [gretchen@stamps.org](mailto:gretchen@stamps.org)  
**Phone:** 814-933-3803 ext. 239  
**Website:** <http://stamps.org/Volunteer-Work-Week>  
**Note:** Although the principal purpose of the week will be to accomplish tasks, volunteers will have evening opportunities to use the American Philatelic Research Library, peruse Circuit Sales and donations materials, and view the Reference Collection.

# Advertisements

*If you would like to have an advertisement added to the Post Boy, please either email me [opusnrosebud@att.net](mailto:opusnrosebud@att.net) or bring a written note of your advertisements. In the future, these ads will run for 3 months and we will rotate them amongst our club members. The beginning of every quarter (January, April, July, and October) we will change up the advertisements to ensure that we get as many different ads as possible.*

*The ads are done on a first come first served basis.*

## **Davies Stamps**

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Fernley, Nevada 89408

[www.Stamps2go.com](http://www.Stamps2go.com)

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Castle & Abbey  
Picture Postcards

**Wanted:**

Marla Wetterling

Looking for, pre-1950's,  
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Scotland, preferably  
castles and abbeys.



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Rich Jones, Owner  
775-327-4131

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Downtown Reno

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

(775) 762-4905

[classicnevada@yahoo.com](mailto:classicnevada@yahoo.com)

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under **howardsstamps**.

Follow the link below for direct access.

[http://www.webstore.com/store.pgr,Howardssstamps.name,Howardssstamps,username,168662,user\\_id,shop](http://www.webstore.com/store.pgr,Howardssstamps.name,Howardssstamps,username,168662,user_id,shop)