

Post Boy

Connecting and supporting stamp collectors, of all ages and interests, in Northern Nevada since 1975



December 2024
Volume 57, Issue 12

In-person & Virtual meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday starting at 10:00 A.M.
Silverada Estates Clubhouse, 2301 Oddie Blvd, Reno ([map](#))

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Announcements

There are no meetings in December. The annual Christmas/Holiday Party is Dec. 14 at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse (same venue as the meetings). The party starts at 11 a.m. More party information is on page 10.

Next Meetings – Mark your new 2025 calendars

Jan. 11, 2025 – In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. There is a live auction at this meeting.

Jan. 25, 2025 – In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. The presentation will be announced in the January Post Boy. Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table. Extra lots may be added as lots are sold.

Online Auction #38 – Will return in February 2025.

A big thank you to **Betty Mudge** for maintaining the Sign-In Log & for the Auction Bucks Accounting/Distribution for over 11 years. She enjoyed being the “banker” for the Auction Bucks. **Maggie Griener** took over these duties at the Nov. 9 meeting.

Another big thank you goes out to **John Walter** who is “retiring” as editor of the Post Boy. The newsletter earned top awards when entered in the APS Star Route award competition.

Congratulations on all his hard work on making the Post Boy an award-winning publication.

Will Eubanks will assume the editor duties with the January issue.

**Happy Holidays – Merry Christmas
– Happy New Year**

Post Boy Reporter

Nov. 9 meeting - Erik Fields and **Dave Stafford** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs at both November meetings.. Refreshments were provided by **George Ray**. Attendance was 25 members and two guests. Lauren attended with her mom Cassie. Lauren is a Girl Eagle Scout who inherited her grandfather's stamp collection. Her immediate goal is to attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

President **James Steckley** announced a \$600 donation from Christine Johnson, Director of the Sparks Heritage Museum. Christine donated her deceased father's collection which sold in club auctions. When James gve the proceeds to Christine, she immediately donated it to the club. A suggesstion was made to use some of the donation for the club's 50th anniversary celebration in 2025.

Member **Scott English** has tendered his resignation letter as the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society. He is a member of NSSS since 2017. He will remain ED until his replacement is named.

Donation Chair **James Steckley** has 9 banker boxes of material for the all-donation live auction on Feb. 22, 2025. **Maggie Greiner** was appointed the Auction Bucks chair. A big thank you was given to Betty Mudge for heading up the Auction Bucks program for over 11 years.

Membership Chair **Mike Potter** reported 57 members have renewed their membership. **Mike Del Grosso** attended SACAPEX on Nov. 2 and 3. He reported a lot of activity on Saturday and slower on Sunday. He traveled a day before the show since snow was predicted over Donner Summit Saturday morning.

Editor **John Walter** read the names of the 19 club members who served in the military with a total of 19 oversears tours including 6 Vietnam tours and one tour in Korea. Two members served two tours each during the Vietnam War.

Program Chair **Dave Gehringer** is looking for meeting presentations starting in January.

Auction Bucks auctlon - The auctioneers were **Gary Atkinson** and **Mike Potter**. Total lots sold were 46 using 156,100 Auction Bucks. Many lots had smaller items included to sell everything.

Nov. 23 meeting – Refreshments were provided by **Joe Allen** plus some home made nut bread was provided by **Maggie Griener**. Attendance was 19 members including one member via Zoom.

The audio-visual equipment was set up by **John Walter**.

President **James Steckley** had comments on the cost of mailing a postcard in Denmark at \$7.30. He had some information with newspaper clippings about Key West, FL. James was stationed in Key West while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. U.S. Route 1 starts at Key West and is 113 miles to the Florida mainland over 44 bridges. It is the longest noth-south highway in the U.S. at 2,377 miles ending in North Kent, Maine.

Show Cair **Erik Fields** reported the National Bowling Stadium venue was reconfirmed for July 26-27. He is selling previous stamp show covers for 50¢ each. They are available at regular meetings.

George Ray sold raffle tickets 3 for a dollar. **John Walter** was a big winner with 2 raffles prizes, the Bonus prize and the money drawing of \$12.50.

Dave Gehringer gave an excellent presentation on the “*USS Kamehameha*,” a nuclear powered submarine. He had signed covers from the sub's commander and numerous other emphemera material to enhance the story.

A Pioneer Holidays Greeting Card

By Patrick Crosby



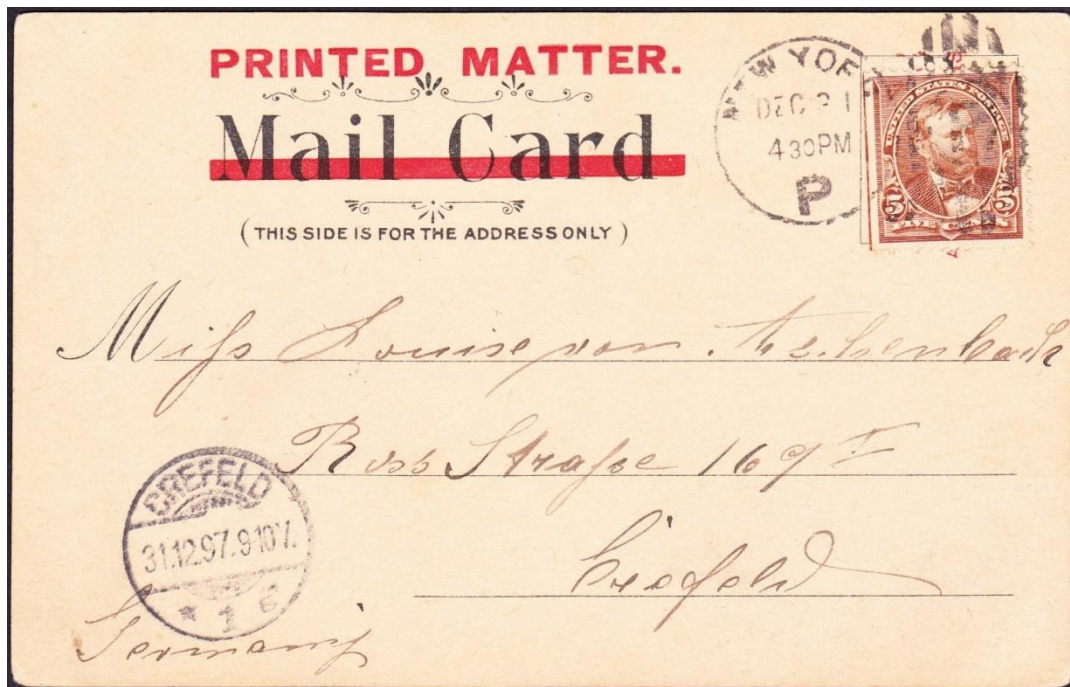
A colorful view of Broadway in New York City by publisher Ed Lowey is from the Classic Pioneer postcard period (May 1, 1893, to May 17, 1898). It was one of 17 views, mostly of New York City, in his "Souvenir of New York" series and was printed on both private postcards and government postal cards.

Later "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" was printed on some of the cards to boost sales during the holiday season. The card shown (Friedman P#13811) was mailed to Germany, postmarked Dec. 21, 1897.

In April 1886, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which the United States was a member, decided that member government issued postal cards were to have the wordings (or similar) "Carte Postale", and "Universal Postal Union" to receive a reduced international postage rate.

At the time a ½ oz. letter was 5¢ and postal cards were 2¢ (equivalent to 25 French centimes and 10 centimes respectively). Not until June 1897, did these requirements apply to private postcards to the dismay of publishers like Ed Lowey whose supply of cards (probably made in Germany) did not have the proper inscriptions. To get around this requirement, publishers sometimes added "Printed Matter" to take advantage of the 1¢ international printed matter rate enjoyed by newspapers and others. However, if there was any written correspondence the letter rate applied, as in this case.

The UPU had decided in 1879 to adopt a stamp color scheme for the basic postage rates: 1¢ green, 2¢ red, 5¢ blue. Many smaller UPU member countries complied, but some large countries, like the United States, did not. When the UPU delegates convened in Washington, DC in May and June 1897, some smaller countries shamed the laggards into eventual compliance.



The post card was postmarked Dec. 21, 1897, in New York. It has a receiving postmark of Dec. 31, 1897 at Crefeld, Germany.

The featured card with its correspondence has a 5¢ chocolate Grant stamp (Scott 255 or 270 if watermarked). The USPOD did not have a blue 5¢ stamp until March 1898 - the same design in blue (Scott 281). At this time blue 1¢ stamps changed to green, with other color changes as necessary.

References:

- James Peter Gough, The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union, The Postal Card Worldwide 1869-1974 Vol. 1 and 2, (The Royal Philatelic Society London 2019).
- Dr. Daniel Friedman, The Birth and Development of American Postcards, (West Nyack, NY: Classic Postcards Press 2003).
- Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996, (Portland, OR: CAMA Publishing Co. 1996).
- Scott 2019 Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers, (Sidney, OH: Amos Media, 2018).

Patrick Crosby collects U.S. postal stationery, stamps and postcards with an emphasis on postal history.

Priority Mail Express Retail - Proposed new rates to take effect Jan. 19, 2025

Flat Rate Envelope	31.40	} These are the minimum rates. The price increases depending on weight and distance (zones).
Legal Flat Rate Envelope	31.65	
Padded Flat Rate Envelope	32.25	

There is NO proposal to increase the first-class mail or post card rates in January

2024 Poinsettia Postage Label



The United States Postal Service will feature an image of a poinsettia on its computer-vended postage label for the Christmas holiday season.

The image is from one of the four Holiday Joy for-ever stamps issued Sept. 14 in a double-sided pane of 20.

In the artwork for the postage label, the image of the poinsettia is rotated 90 degrees.

The postage labels are dispensed at self-service kiosks installed in many post offices across the country. Post offices tend to load the preprinted holiday postage labels at different times, and this year they will be available starting in mid-November.

The U.S. Postal Service created its first full-color holiday-themed computer-vended postage labels in 2012. Except for 2019, the labels have been issued annually sometime between mid-October and mid-November.

Collectors interested in obtaining the new postage label can look online for a post office location that has a self-service kiosk. Visit <https://tools.usps.com/find-location.htm> and under "Location Types," click the down arrow and select "Self-Service Kiosks" from the drop-down menu.

When I did the search, I found five post offices in the Reno-Sparks area: main post office on Vassar St, 1580 Grand Point Way (Peavine), 75 McCabe Dr (Steamboat), and in Sparks; 750 4th St., and 2929 Vista Blvd.

The postage labels vended by the kiosks are listed as computer-vended postage stamps in the [*Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*](#).

If you receive these Poinsettia labels on your Christmas mail, they are worth saving the entire cover. The quantity printed is not great compared to the mass printed stamps. A postmark cancel may not always appear on the cover as the gray area on the label is a barcode that acts as the cancel control.

On the right is the Holiday Joy block of 4 issued on Sept. 14. The Poinsettia stamp is on the lower left and rotated 90 degrees for the image on the postage label.

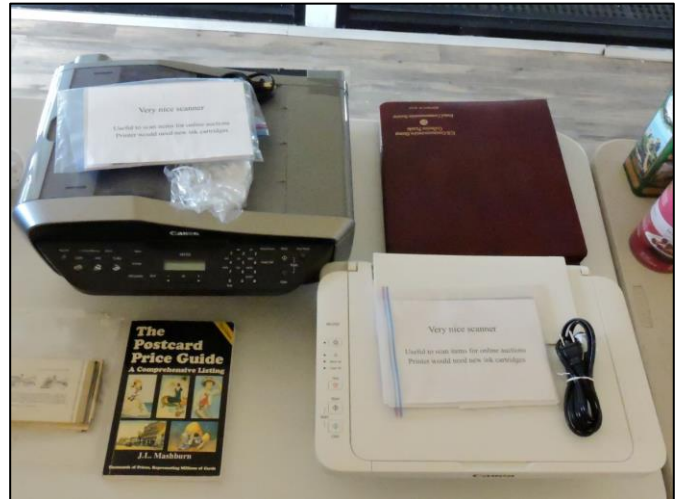


Auction Bucks Auction

Throughout the year club members earn Auction Bucks for their volunteer activities. Then at the first meeting in November we have an opportunity to spend our Auction Bucks on donated garage and yard sale type items. Here are some pictures from the auction. There were 25 members and 2 guests in attendance. The members spent 156,100 Auction Bucks on 46 items up for sale.



Many DVDs and some philatelic items.



Two printers in auction, great for scanning auction items.



A total of 4 wine bottles in the auction.



Lots of tools to bid on.



Some of the members in attendance.



The auctioneers: Gary Atkinson and Mike Potter.

2024 Volunteers & Activities

At the end of the year the stamp club recognizes those members who have served the membership in various ways. If you don't see your name on the list, there are things you can do to enhance your club participation. Our president can fit your skills to different club activities. In addition to the officers and directors, here are our extraordinary volunteers:

- Archivist - **John Walter** (using the NSSS website & club laptop computer)
- Program Chair - **Dave Gehringer**
- Get Well & Sympathy Cards – **Howard Grenzebach**
- Donations Chair - **James Steckley**
- Nomination & Election Chair - **John Walter**
- Sign-In Log & Auction Bucks Accounting/Distribution – **Betty Mudge**
- Silverada Clubhouse Meeting Place Liaison – **George Ray**
- Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show special cancellations - **Harvey Edwards**
- Post Office and Library Displays:
 - Vassar Post Office – **John Walter** (every 4 weeks)
 - Carson City Library – **John Walter & Dave Gehringer**
- Storage Unit – **Mike Potter**
- Meeting Live Auctions Accounting - **Erik Fields & Steve Foster**
- Auctioneers for live auctions – **Gary Atkinson, Mike Potter, Howard Grenzebach**
- Auctioneer's Assistants – **George Ray, Nadiyah Beekun, Howard Kadohiro, Dave Stafford**
- Online Auctions - **Dave Parsons** (auction master) & **John Walter** (webpage)
- Meeting Room setup - **Erik Fields**
- Council of Northern CA Philatelic Societies Liaison – **John Walter**
- Penny Boxes – **Eugene Smoots, Dave Parsons, and Jeanne Paquin**
- Raffle Coordinator/Operator – **George Ray**
- APS Liaison & Ambassador Membership Program – **Mike Potter**
- Membership Chair – **Mike Potter**
- Member Database & Directory - **Harvey Edwards**
- Librarian - **Dave Gehringer**
- Webmaster - **John Walter**
- Post Boy Editor - **John Walter**
- Post Boy quiz master – **Eric Moody** (**David Gehringer** for Feb. quiz)
- APS Estate Advisory service – **Gary Atkinson**
- Youth Program - **Dave Gehringer**
- Refreshments Coordinator – **Barbara Stanfield**
- Original Post Boy articles - **Pat Crosby, Tom Reyman, John Walter, Howard Grenzebach, David Sampson, David Stafford.**



December Quiz – Famous American Homes

By Eric Moody

The following questions all relate to U.S. stamps that have depicted or commemorated well-known residences in the country.

1. Sagamore Hill, which was depicted on a 1953 stamp, is now a National Historic Site in New York state. It formerly was the home of this U.S. President:
(a) John Adams (b) Grover Cleveland (c) Theodore Roosevelt (d) Franklin D. Roosevelt
2. A rough log cabin, his childhood home, is featured on a stamp from 1956 (#1074) that honors this noted American educator. Curiously, the honoree himself is not depicted, as he was on a 1940 issue (#873).
(a) John Dewey (b) Booker T. Washington (c) Woodrow Wilson (d) Horatio Alger
3. Thomas Jefferson's famous home, Monticello, first appeared on a U.S. stamp (#1047) in:
(a) 1932 (b) 1956 (c) 1960 (d) 2001
4. The White House was featured on this kind of stamp issued in 1963:
(a) Airmail (b) Special Delivery (c) Christmas (d) Non-Profit Organization
5. Wolf Trap Farm, which since the early 1970s has been an elegant events venue and a National Park for the Performing Arts, is depicted on a 1972 stamp (#1452) that is part of a set commemorating U.S. national parks. It is located in:
(a) California (b) Vermont (c) Illinois (d) Virginia
6. George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, made its first appearance on U.S. stamps (#U523-U528) in:
(a) 1899 (b) 1932 (c) 1936 (d) 1941
7. Fallingwater, a Pennsylvania home that is a famous architectural landmark, was depicted on a stamp (#2019) in 1992. It was designed in 1935 by:
(a) James Hoban (b) Stanford White (c) Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (d) Frank Lloyd Wright
8. This multi-family home – and fortress – of early Native Americans is located in Colorado. Featured on a 1934 stamp (#743) it is:
(a) Montezuma's Castle (b) Mesa Verde (c) Lost City (d) Chaco Canyon
9. Franklin D. Roosevelt's vacation home in Warm Springs, Georgia, is shown on a 1945 stamp (#931). This retreat is known as:
(a) Hyde Park (b) Valhalla (c) Saratoga (d) Little White House
10. Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse, with its attached residence, is featured on a 1995 stamp (#2973). This landmark structure can be found on:
(a) Lake Ontario (b) Atlantic coast (c) Lake Michigan (d) Pacific coast
11. First shown on a 1937 stamp (#786), this was President Andrew Jackson's longtime home:
(a) Wheatland (b) Montpelier (c) The Hermitage (d) Nassau Hall

12. Designed by famed German-American architect Walter Gropius as his private residence, this Massachusetts home, which is featured on a 1992 stamp (#2021), is known as:

- (a) Lyndhurst (b) Decatur House (c) Gropius House (d) Bavarian House

The December quiz is worth 120 **Auction Bucks** for all the correct answers. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to **Maggie Griener** at the next in-person meeting or email to: postboyquiz@renostamp.org

There was no Quiz in November:

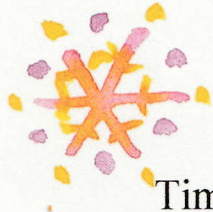
Vassar Post Office Display

The display material is for the December holidays: Christmas is celebrated on December 25, Hanukkah (Festival of Lights) begins at sundown on December 25, and Kwanzaa (Encourage unity and joy among African Americans) begins December 26 to January 1, 2025.





It's time to plan our annual club holiday celebration. Take a look at the menu below, and please sign up to bring whatever suits your fancy. A sign up sheet will be available at our next meeting and you can also text me, Maggie, at 775-250-7300. We need a headcount by Monday, December 9, of the number of guests and what you're bringing.



Place: Silverada Estates Clubhouse

Date: December 14, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. - room setup, 11:00 a.m. - Hors D'oeuvres

11:30 a.m. - Main Meal followed by a gift exchange

MENU

Turkey

Mashed potatoes and gravy

Dressing

Cranberry sauce

Dips and chips

Vegetables with dip, olives, stuffed celery, deviled eggs, etc.

Cooked veggies or veggie casseroles of choice

Rolls and butter

Salt and pepper

Any dish that you like to make it feel like a holiday celebration

Most importantly, desserts!

Napkins

Soft drinks and ice

Bring your own plates and silverware

Bottled water will be provided

