



# The Post Boy

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

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P.O. Box 2709  
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In-person and virtual meetings:  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at 10 AM  
Silverada Estates Clubhouse  
2301 Oddie Blvd., Reno  
([map](#)) ([Google Maps](#))  
All are welcome!

## In this issue:

### Upcoming Events

#### [The Post Boy Reporter](#)

#### [A Homemade Postcard from a Marine in Somalia](#)

#### [Linn's Stamp News: A New Era](#)

#### [Scott Stamp LLC Acquires Iconic Brands from Amos Media Co.](#)

#### [2024 Salute to our Military Veterans](#)

#### [Quiz: The Charter Oak and Other Trees](#)

#### [Vassar Post Office Display](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Sat. Nov. 8** In-person Auction Bucks auction starts at 10 AM. There is a salute to our military veterans. **No Zoom today** since the whole meeting is using Auction Bucks in a garage/yard-sale item auction. Only Auction Bucks can be used in the auction. See the October issue of *The Post Boy* about this auction. There is **no** raffle, but refreshments and coffee will be available.

**Sat. Nov. 22** In-person and online Zoom meeting starts at 10 AM. After announcements, committee reports, and

raffle, there will be a philatelic presentation. After the regular meeting is a Board meeting.

1

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### Stamp Shows

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Nov. 15–16 [Filatelic Fiesta](#), San Jose

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Dec. 6–7 [PENPEX](#), Redwood City

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May 23–30 [Boston World Expo 2026](#)

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### Annual Christmas Party

It's time to be thinking about the Christmas party potluck in December. It will be here before you know it! The date is December 13<sup>th</sup>, and volunteers are needed. So think about what you want to bring, or maybe you can help set up and tear down and decorate. Maggie has volunteered to cook the turkey. She will also put a sign-up sheet on the front table at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, so please sign up and indicate what you're bringing and the number of guests.

## ***The Post Boy Reporter***

by **Maggie Griener**, Secretary *pro tempore*

### **October 11**

The meeting room was set up and coffee started by **Eric Fields** and several other members in readiness for our October 11 meeting featuring an auction of donated items organized by **James Steckley**. Twenty-six members were in attendance. The Zoom connection was established for anyone wishing to attend remotely. Contact Webmaster **John Walter** for the Zoom connection information.

The October issue of *The Post Boy* was discussed by **John Walter** who encouraged members to do the monthly quiz. AI and Google are some of the sources available for assistance in answering the questions for those who don't have access at home to Scott catalogues. There are 10 Auction Bucks awarded for each correct answer. Give your completed quizzes to **Maggie Griener**. She will check your answers and note your Auction Bucks. This month's quiz by **Eric Moody**, *All About George*, was very entertaining and informative.

October's issue of *The Post Boy* contains a variety of articles by five members. Members are encouraged to write articles and send them to *The Post Boy* Editor **Will Eubanks**. Share your thoughts and whatever is of interest to you with the membership.

President **Jeff Waldman** called for committee reports. **Erik Fields** reported on his discussions with the RSCVA regarding having next year's stamp show at the convention center. No contract has been signed yet, but the price looks reasonable using our non-profit status for a discount.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 prizes going to the lucky winners. **Erik Fields** won the bonus prize and **Betty Mudge** won the princely sum of \$10 in the 50/50 drawing.

The live auction featured 60 lots. **Gary Atkinson** acted as the auctioneer with **Nadiah Beekun** assisting. There was active bidding, and 52 items sold for a total of \$1,587.50.

### **October 25**

Thirty members were in attendance for the October 25 meeting. As always, the room was set up and coffee readied by **Erik Fields** and his helpers. Refreshments were

provided by **Steve Foster**.

The Zoom connection was established and three people joined to participate remotely. Contact Webmaster **John Walter** for connection information if you would prefer to watch from the comfort of your home in your jammies and miss the pre-meeting socializing. **Maggie Griener** reminds you that if you are attending the meeting in person, be sure to sign in as legibly as possible so she can add your Auction Bucks.

President **Jeff Waldman** called the meeting to order and asked for committee reports. **John Walter** reported on his Reno Post Office displays. A new person to take over those duties would be welcomed by him. If you're interested in that job, please coordinate with John.

Membership Chair **Mike Potter** reports that currently 62 members have paid their annual dues. He also reports that the older display cases from the rental unit have been donated to the Goldfield Chamber of Commerce, and **Nadiah** says they were delighted to get them. They are being used by the local library, school, fire station, and any municipal organization that wishes to borrow them.

**Dave Parsons** reported that the online auction feature 95 items, 65 of which sold for a total of nearly \$700 with lots of new sellers and buyers. The next online auction is scheduled for January 2026.

**George Ray** donated a new display screen.

**Erik Fields** says that the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary show covers and the 250<sup>th</sup> Postal Service anniversary are still available, and that there are ongoing discussions with the convention center for next year's stamp show, which will probably be the second weekend in July.

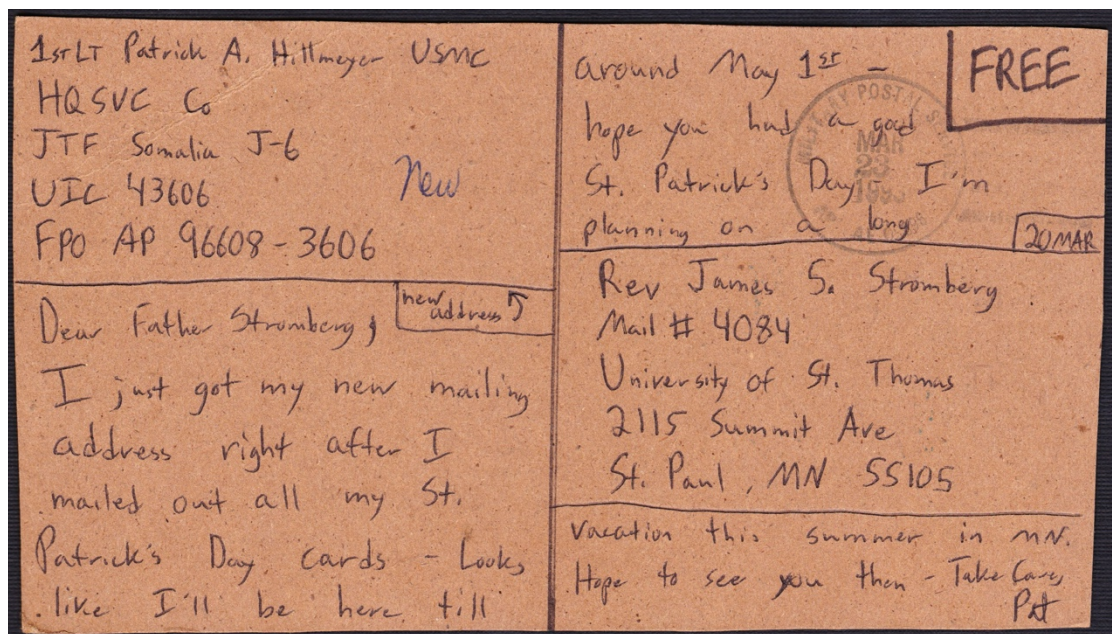
**James Steckley** is still receiving large donations which will be featured in upcoming auctions. A collection of 85 lots realized \$2,200 for the donor, half of which was donated to the club. Good work, James!

**Dave Gehringer** presented part 3 of his presentation on fancy cancels on stamps from 1847 to the 1940s. Also upcoming will be two programs on counterfeit stamps, foreign and U.S.

The next meeting on November 8 will be the Auction Bucks meeting. **Maggie Griener** will have your envelopes of Bucks ready for the sale—remember, it's NOT real money so bid freely on philatelic items as well as garage sale stuff. Get ready to repurpose all those things gathering dust; your fellow members will give them new homes.

## A Homemade Postcard from a Marine in Somalia

by Patrick Crosby



It seems that the acronym for packaged military rations, MRE for “Meal, Ready-to-Eat”, had other interpretations – like “Meal Rarely Edible” and “Meal Refusing to Exit”. Their frankfurters, in a package of four, became nicknamed “the four fingers of death”. A first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps used cardboard trimmed to 4½ x 7½ in. from an MRE entrée package of Spaghetti With Meat and Sauce, one of twelve main courses available in 1993, to write to a friend. The MRE’s were meant for service personnel and for humanitarian needs and would include a side dish, crackers (or bread if you were unlucky), dessert, a flameless ration heater, powdered beverage mix, utensils, and an accessory pack. The hope was for the meals to be supplemented with fresh food as soon as possible. High in fat and salt, the meals were fine for service personnel who would burn them off, but not so healthy for civilians.

On 12/18/1992, the Secretary of Defense authorized “Free Mail” privileges for Armed Forces serving within Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, and adjacent coastal waters. The card’s sender properly wrote “Free” in the upper right corner and his return address in the upper left. The “JTF” is for Joint Task Force which in Somalia included the U.S. Army infantry, the U.S. Navy Seals, and the U.S. Marines deployed in Somalia. The Military Postal Service postmark, a requirement, is dated March 23, 1993. Also included in the return address are “FPO” (Fleet Post Office), AP (Armed Forces Pacific), and a 9-digit zip code.

What were U.S. forces doing in Somalia, one of the least developed countries in the world? After the 1991 fall of the Somali Democratic Republic and the escalation of the

continued internal battle for power between mainly two of fifteen Somali clans, 30,000 were killed and over 1 million refugees fled their homes in three months. “By the fall of 1992 the combination of civil war, total government collapse, famine and disease in Somalia had taken the lives of between 300,000 and 500,000 people...”[Oakley]. The United Nations stepped in and authorized UNITAF (United Task Force), also known as Operation Restore Hope, and in early December, 1992, brought in their forces which quickened relief from a drought caused famine. But without much clout of its own and its experience having been mostly in international conflicts, not civil wars, the U.N. Security Council on January 3, 1992, authorized deployment of mostly U.S. troops (28 other countries contributed) whose hands were not as tied as to the use of military force. They were there “...to establish as soon as possible a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations” [per United Nations] and to end clan fighting. These they accomplished temporarily by mid-February, 1993, with the clans allowing relief operations and agreeing to a ceasefire.

The cooperation among the Navy Seals, the Marines, and the Army infantry in the Joint Task Force was not ideal, but valuable as a learning experience. For both the U.N. and the U.S. this Somalia situation was a test of using force as a means to solve internal conflicts. In May 1993 UNITAF’s responsibilities were absorbed into another U.N.-led mission. Effective September 28, 1995, the Secretary of Defense ordered the “Termination of Free Mail Privileges for Armed Forces and Department of Defense Civilians” in many countries, including those in the Somalia Joint Task Force.

#### References:

- Leslie L. Ratliff, LTC, U.S. Army, Joint Task Force Somalia, a Case Study (Newport, RI: Naval War College, 1995)
- Robert B. Oakley, “An Envoy’s Perspective” Joint Force Quarterly (Autumn 1993) 45
- “Free Mail for Operation Restore Hope” Postal Bulletin 21832 (United States Postal Service, Washington DC January 7, 1993): 1
- “Termination of Free Mail Privileges for Armed Forces and Department of Defense Civilians” Postal Bulletin 21903 (United States Postal Service, Washington, DC September 28, 1995): 5
- En.wikipedia.org (“Meal Ready to Eat”, “Unified Task Force”)



## Linn's Stamp News: A New Era

Collectors Will Soon See Updates, Refinements.

If you've been following along with the news, you know it's an exciting time for stamp collectors. With the formation of Scott Stamp LLC and the transition of *Linn's Stamp News*, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, and the Scott catalogs into ownership by collectors, we're entering a new era, one that honors our past while building for the future.

You'll start to notice some changes in the coming weeks and months. Behind the scenes, we're moving mountains of digital and physical files, databases, and archives. That transfer process takes time and care. It's not as simple as flipping a switch, and neither is ramping up new editorial and production systems.

But progress is happening every day, and I'm confident you'll soon start to see the results in the form of fresher updates, improved imagery, and expanded content.

You may have already spotted one of the first visible updates right here in these pages: the new *Linn's Stamp News* logo. Along with the new Scott logo, the *Linn's* logo was engraved by master engraver and designer Martin Mörck, whose artistry has graced more than 1,000 postage stamps for dozens of countries around the world. His work brings a tangible connection to the craft and heritage of engraving that's central to our hobby's identity.

As we make these changes, our email addresses are also in the process of being updated to reflect our new **Scott Stamp LLC** online home. During this transition, messages sent to our previous addresses will continue to reach us, but you may begin to see new **@scottstamp.com** addresses appearing soon.

It's a reminder that while technology continues to evolve, the beauty of fine engraving, detail, and tradition still endures, and so does our shared enthusiasm for the hobby.

Thank you for your patience and support as we move through this transition. The next chapter for *Linn's*, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, and the Scott catalogs is taking shape, and I can't wait to share more of what's ahead.

Linn's, Nov. 10, 2025

## Scott Stamp LLC Acquires Iconic Brands from Amos Media Co.

This acquisition places these cornerstone publications of the stamp hobby — the Scott catalogs, *Linn's Stamp News* and *Scott Stamp Monthly* — back into the hands of passionate collectors dedicated to strengthening and modernizing philately for future generations.

That's the heart of what happened earlier this month when Scott Stamp LLC, the company that fellow collectors and entrepreneur **David Fritz** and **Jay Bigalke** formed, officially acquired these iconic brands from Amos Media Co.

In the official announcement, I said, "It's incredibly meaningful to see these trusted names in philately return to collector ownership." I meant every word of that. For me, this isn't simply a change in business structure, it's about preserving and reinvigorating the tools and publications that have guided generations of collectors.

For decades, I've had the privilege of working within these brands. I've seen firsthand the passion of our readers and the trust they place in the Scott catalogs, *Linn's* reporting and the publication of stories that tie the hobby together. To now steward these entities into their next chapter is both humbling and energizing for me.

And it wouldn't have been possible without Don Sundman and Jim Feinson of the Mystic Stamp Co. team, along with additional investors who are passionate stamp collectors themselves. Their belief in the

importance of keeping these publications in collector hands — and their willingness to invest in the future of the hobby — made this new beginning possible. This partnership represents the best of what the philatelic community can do when it comes together for a shared purpose.

I also want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude to the Amos family. For decades, they served as dedicated stewards of the Scott catalogs, *Linn's Stamp News* and *Scott Stamp Monthly*, investing in these brands and ensuring their survival through tremendous changes in both publishing and the hobby itself.

The opportunity to carry that work forward is only possible because of the foundation they built and the professionalism they showed throughout this transition. We owe them our genuine thanks for their commitment to philately and for helping position the hobby for its next era of growth.

### **Building A Foundation for What Comes Next**

Our first few weeks as Scott Stamp LLC have been busy — there's a lot to move, migrate, and modernize. The core systems that power the Scott catalogs, *Linn's Stamp News* and *Scott Stamp Monthly* are being updated to build a stronger digital foundation. That work may not be visible immediately, but it's essential for what we plan to offer in the near future.

The Scott database, the backbone of the catalogs and news publications, will see its most significant upgrade in decades. This project will allow us to develop entirely new digital tools for collectors, dealers, and developers. Imagine being able to search, filter and cross-reference stamps from around the world with greater precision than ever before or having the ability to use Scott data in ways to better manage your collection digitally. That's the direction we're heading.

We're also preparing some familiar titles to evolve in exciting new ways, some of which have been out of print for years. The Scott specialized and standard catalogs will see images restored to their previous sizes for better identification, before they were reduced in recent years. While production costs may rise slightly as a result, we know that larger, clearer images are essential to the collector and worth the investment. The *Scott Catalogue of Errors on U.S. Postage Stamps*, 20th Edition, is also being finalized for release. And this is only the tip of the iceberg.

### **Reimagining How We Tell the Story of Philately**

Under Scott Stamp LLC, *Linn's Stamp News* will also embrace a digital-first strategy while not forgetting those that want a print edition. We've listened to readers who want breaking news and features as they happen. In the coming months, Linns.com will be revitalized to provide daily updates the centerpiece of our coverage, while still maintaining the depth and authority collectors expect.

Each Friday, we'll release a PDF reader edition — a curated weekly recap that pulls the week's top stories together in a traditional, magazine-style format. That end-of-week issue will feature exclusive content not available online, giving subscribers the best of both worlds: timely digital news and a thoughtful, collectible weekly edition. And for those who prefer a weekend read, the Friday digital posting will provide a consistent end-of-week edition that's easy to access and enjoy anytime.

Meanwhile, *Scott Stamp Monthly* is also being revitalized. The magazine will continue to showcase in-depth research and catalog updates, but with greater variety than before — more worldwide coverage, thematic collecting features, interviews, and creative hobby stories that celebrate the many ways people enjoy stamps today. We want each issue to provide a greater sense of discovery.

### **Broadening the Hobby's Reach**

One of the aspects I'm most excited about is how Scott Stamp LLC can bring the hobby into new spaces. As David Fritz said so well, "We're going to meet people where they already are. That means using platforms like You-Tube, podcasts, and social media not just to talk about stamps, but to show how collecting connects with art, history, travel, and pop culture."

**David Fritz**, a NYC-based entertainment and media lawyer with deep relationships in music, TV, film and social media, has been spearheading several ideas that will expand our presence beyond print that include video, podcasts and collaborations with hobby influencers, and even a few recognizable names who share a love for history or design. “The more voices we bring in,” he said recently, “the more people will realize stamps tell the world’s story.”

That vision fits perfectly with our mission. In the press release, we said our goal is “to honor the legacy of Scott and *Linn’s* while investing in new tools and opportunities to inspire the next generation of collectors.” That means being visible on modern platforms while still maintaining the depth and integrity that have defined these brands for more than a century.

We’ve already started conversations with the American Philatelic Society and others about how we can collaborate more closely to engage new audiences and strengthen the hobby’s community connections.

### Looking Ahead to Boston 2026

If there’s one event that symbolizes the excitement ahead, it’s the Boston 2026 World Expo. This once-in-a-decade international exhibition will give us the opportunity to showcase the revitalized Scott and *Linn’s* brands on a global stage. It will also be a perfect setting to unveil some of the tools and products we’re developing right now.

Following that, the Great American Stamp Show, in Albuquerque, N.M. in 2027, will be an annual cornerstone event to engage with collectors and highlight new developments.

### A Shared Vision and a Renewed Purpose

Every transition comes with challenges, and we have plenty of them ahead—technical, logistical, and creative. But the energy from our team and the support from the collector community have been incredible. Our partnership with Amos Media Co. remains strong as we continue to sell products during this transition period through AmosAdvantage.com and maintain subscription access through Linns.com.

ScottStamp.com will also begin retailing the Scott catalogs and related products soon, providing another direct option for collectors. We’re also in the process of finalizing a new headquarters in Troy, Ohio.

I’ve often said that the Scott catalogs are more than price guides — they are the language of the hobby. To be entrusted with its future, alongside *Linn’s Stamp News* and *Scott Stamp Monthly*, is something I take seriously. These publications belong to the collectors who read them, rely on them, and build their collections around them.

As we begin to ramp up the projects and products the hobby needs, I encourage everyone to get involved and show support in two ways:

1. **Stay connected and subscribe.** If you’re not already a subscriber, please consider subscribing to *Linn’s Stamp News* and *Scott Stamp Monthly*, exploring the Scott digital catalog or purchasing the latest print volumes.
2. **Support through advertising.** Dealers, auction houses, and organizations that advertise with us make it possible to continue expanding coverage and investing in the future of hobby publishing. The next year will bring visible changes: upgraded digital experiences, revitalized publications, and new ways to connect with the broader world. But at the core, our purpose remains the same — to document, celebrate, and grow the hobby we all love.  
For the first time in decades, the Scott and *Linn’s* brands are back in the hands of collectors — and that, to me, is the best news of all.

Linn’s, Nov. 3, 2025





## Quiz: The Charter Oak and Other Trees

by Eric Moody

- In 1687, residents of this British colony in North America hid their royal charter, which 25 years earlier had granted them unusual freedoms, in the hollow of a centuries-old white oak tree (later called the Charter Oak). This was done to keep the document out of the hands of a regional governor who, the colonists felt, wanted to reduce some of the liberties they had been given. The tree was depicted on a 1935 U.S. stamp that commemorated the establishment of the colony, which eventually became the state of
  - New York.
  - Georgia.
  - Connecticut.
  - Maryland.
- The state flag of South Carolina, shown on a 2011 U.S. stamp (#4320), features a representation of this native tree.
  - magnolia
  - palmetto
  - Southern Pine
  - cypress
- Norfolk Island in the south Pacific Ocean is known for being the home of an unusual variety of this kind of tree, which appears on many of its stamps (#1, 13–14, 88, etc.).
  - oak
  - palm
  - mahogany
  - pine
- The edible nuts of this tree, which is native to Brazil, are shown on a 2006 stamp (#2992) from that country
  - Brazil nut
  - cashew
  - hazelnut
  - breadnut
- The historic Brandenburg Gate in the center of Berlin (shown on city stamps #9N42–47, 9N59) stands at one end of a boulevard that takes its name (“*Unter den \_\_\_\_\_*”) from the shade trees that are planted along it. These trees are
  - oaks.
  - chestnuts.
  - lindens.
  - elms.
- Cedars, famously associated with this country located on the Mediterranean, have been featured on many of its stamps (#50, 365, 701, etc.).
  - Spain
  - Morocco
  - Lebanon
  - Tunisia
- The Vermont state flag, shown on U.S. stamp #4325, features one of these trees.
  - pine
  - maple
  - oak
  - elm
- This fruit, an important commercial product that grows on a tree that’s not really a tree, appears on a 1979 stamp (#883) of Thailand.
  - coconut
  - jackfruit
  - banana
  - rambutan
- An “American Trees” set of stamps produced by the U.S. in 1978 (#1764–1767) features all of the following except the
  - Giant Sequoia.
  - Gray Birch.
  - White Pine.
  - Silver Maple.
- Blossoming cherry trees along the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. appear on two 2012 U.S. stamps (#4651–4652). These were issued to mark the centennial of a gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the nation’s capital by this country.
  - China
  - Korea
  - Japan
  - Chile
- A 1923 stamp from Liberia (#225a) depicts a planter’s house on a plantation cultivating this kind of tree.
  - oil palm
  - rubber
  - banana
  - carob
- In 1951, this European country, known for its many festivals and holidays, issued a stamp (#593) celebrating a Festival of Trees.
  - France
  - Great Britain
  - Italy
  - Denmark

The quiz is worth 120 Auction Bucks. Please give your answers to **Maggie Griener** at the next meeting or email them to [postboyquiz@renostamp.org](mailto:postboyquiz@renostamp.org). **October quiz answers:** 1c, 2d, 3c, 4b, 5d, 6c, 7a, 8d, 9b, 10c, 11b, 12c.

## Vassar Post Office Display

By John Walter

The November post office display features a tribute to military veterans. The other display board features more pages to honor our veterans and a reminder about Thanksgiving Day on November 27.

