

JUNE 2009

The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CLUB

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S PICNIC TIME IN TENNESSEE!! THE CLUBS ANNUAL PICNIC WILL THE PROGRAM FOR JUNE. WE WILL MEET AT THE TENNESSEE RIVER PARK ON AMNICOLA PARKWAY.

THIS MONTH WE LOOK AT COLLECTING "FIRST-DAY COVERS"



BE SURE AND READ AMBER BARGER'S STORY – 'BURIED TREASURE'

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MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS

BILL LaGANKE 03/06/28
A great big Happy Birthday to you Bill. I hope the day was a great day for you and that you have many more of them.

JUNE MEETING

June is the time when we have our annual picnic at the Tennessee River Park on Amnicola Highway. Gather at the park around 5 PM and we will eat around the time when everyone decides they are hungry.

If you are not familiar with the area and need some help finding the park, call our President, Trish, at 423-883-6257 or the wives cell phone at 310-4920. I will try and give good directions to the park.

This year the club has chosen chicken for the main entrée, and please bring a side dish that you can share with the other members. See you at the park.

REMEMBER, WHAT YOU FORGET IN YOUR HEAD, YOU MUST REMEMBER IN YOUR FEET. – UNKNOWN

CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

RE-CAP OF THE MAY PROGRAM -

THANKS to Dan Chaij for his excellent talk about the stamps of the Falkland Islands and photos of his trip to the southern part of the world. Thanks for your effort in getting all the material into a power point presentation.

APS DIRECTOR AT LARGE-

We talked about the elections for APS officers. The club decided it was in our best interest to ONLY vote for Jim Cate for the position of Director at Large. We surely would not want to have other club members to receive more votes than Jim.

ONE-PAGE EXHIBIT PRIZES-

The certificates for the winners of the "One-Page Exhibit" that was held in April were given out. For those who did not receive theirs come to the picnic.

VISITORS-

We thank our visitors, Charles White and Alice and Ed. I hope you enjoyed the meeting and will return.

JULY PROGRAM -

July program will be a "Show and Tell" Bring your favorite stamps, stamp collection OR any other thing you have to show to the club. It can be stamp related OR non-stamp related. Tell the club about your hobbies.

TREASURE'S REPORT-

Carl reports that we have \$882.92.

CHANGE OF FONT FOR THE CHRONICLE-

Has anyone noticed the change in font? I changed it, as I felt it was easier to read, and gives a sharper, cleaner print. Hope you like it!

Personal commentary by your editor.

CLUB MOVING TO A NEW MEETING LOCATION -

The discussion about moving out of the post office continues. After long debate about the "If we should" OR "If we shouldn't" a vote was taken by the members present. There were 15 members (by my count) and the vote was: 9 yes 3 no with at least 2 people not voting.

PLEASE READ THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER. TRISH WOULD LIKE YOU TO CALL HER WITH YOUR VOTE BEFORE JUNE 5 WITH YOUR VOTE.

The final vote will be announced at the picnic on June 11th. The club felt that this was far to important of a decision to make without complete club participation.

On personal basis, I voted yes to move. There are a number of reasons for this.

1. With post office security at stake, it is necessary to lock the doors at 7.30 PM. This means that those who are a little late will be locked out. At the new location this will not happen and perhaps, in a small way, will help the club to grow.

2. There was complaints that it would be farther to drive. For myself, it would mean about 3 miles farther to drive. That is OK with me, as there will be the following:

- A. A large room to meet in that contains a kitchen where we can have our Christmas party.
- B. The use of a podium with microphone. This will surely help in hearing what the speaker is saying, for those of us who are getting old and hard of hearing. (I speak of myself).

3. For some there was the comment that it was in a church. SO! Nothing there will bite you nor will it affect you if you don't let it. It is just a building to meet in. The Knoxville club does it, and have grown to over 100 members.

The comments and ideas are from your editor. I bear full responsibility for the content.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER with Trish Bowers

Dan did a wonderful job in sharing with us his recent trip to the Falkland Islands. If you collect Falkland Island stamps and were not there, well, you missed a good meeting.

Please read the below especially if you were not at May's meeting!

There is still an opportunity for you to vote on moving our monthly meeting location. I have mentioned this possibility in my last two President's Corner. We did in fact vote on May 14, but we decided that this decision was too important to not give everyone the option of voting. If you were not at the last meeting and wish to vote for or against moving to the fellowship hall of Bill White's church, please call me at 423-899-0981. Should I not be home, please leave your name and your verbal vote. It will be necessary to call me by June 5.

The final decision will be announced at our picnic on June 11. I need everyone to be involved in this decision as it is a big one. I did talk with Randy at the post office and he said should we move and for whatever reason the new place did not work out, we could return.

Speaking of the picnic, we will be picnicing at our "usual" spot on June 11. The club will provide fried chicken, beverages, plates, plasticware and cups. We all need to bring a dish to pass. Please be aware of the hot days of summer and keep us all healthy by keeping cold foods cold and hot foods hot!!!

Until next month.... Trish

BURIED TREASURE! By Amber Barger

I never intended to become interested in stamps – that was my husband's hobby. When he confessed his desire to be a dealer at stamp shows again, my only thought was, "Hooray! He'll start selling this stuff and I can have the other half of my house back" I agreed (like any dutiful wife with her own agenda) to help him get these "buried treasures" ready for the stamp show.

He gave me some light duties at first, but I quickly began classifying stamps by myself. That's when I first uncovered my own "buried treasures". When a stamp was hard to classify, I stopped and researched. I began to appreciate the unexpected historical lessons I received through these tiny artworks. I studied the variations in paper, perforations and types. I wanted to know what made the differences. More importantly, I wanted to know that when I classified a stamp, it was right. It was this drive for precision that led me to Italy.

More specifically, the Italian Offices Abroad Scott Catalogue #8. Or was it #8a? There was only a slight variation in the corners of the design for #8 and #8a. The problem? Scott does not list a picture for #8 or #8a, and all the stamps in both sets have corner variations. How is one to know the difference without a point of reference? (The value of the "treasure" concerned here: #8 is worth \$24, #8a is worth \$33,000. Expertizing might cost more than the stamp was worth.) That's when it hit me – eBay! I searched the site until I found the examples I needed.

I suppose this is where I began to lose sight of the goal – cleaning out the house. Instead, I started to realize the potential in these never-ending piles. And though I would never admit it to anyone other than a stamp collector, I sometimes walk through my house thinking,

"Arrrgh! There be a pile of buried treasure."

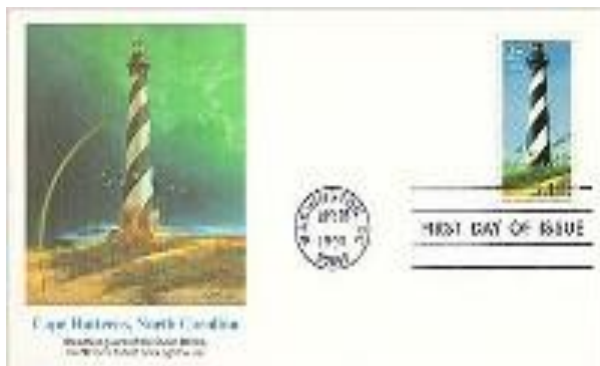
COLLECTING FIRST-DAY ISSUES

Thanks to Alice, a visitor at the May meeting for the idea of this article.

This is a short and easy introduction to the hobby of collecting "First-Day Covers." As most of the members know, it can be a complex topic and like most anything in the stamp collecting hobby, can become expensive.

01. WHAT IS A "FIRST-DAY OF ISSUES" COVER?

Definition: A first day cover is a stamped envelope, postal card or other postal material that was processed at the post office where the stamp was issued, and has a cancellation indicating the same. The



cancellation will often be specially designed for the occasion and frequently will say "First Day of Issue" or something similar. Depending on the postal authority there may be a ceremony to commemorate the first

day of issue.

02. FIRST DAY COVER COLLECTING BASIC

There are many ways to collect First Day Covers. Here is a short guide to a few options and available resources.

How you collect is your choice. Whatever your choice, you will be able to find a wide array of material on online stores, eBay and at your local stamp dealer with which to build your collection.

Once you have made the choice to collect first day issues and

covers it is highly advised that you obtain a up-to-date copy of the SCOTT FIRST DAY COVER CATALOGUE AND CHECKLIST.

This manual contains a lot of info about how to collect, and what to collect plus updated values for more than 10,000 cacheted and uncacheted U.S. First Day Covers. Listings are arranged by Scott Catalogue number and includes a brief description featuring denomination and subject.



CACHET: What is a cachet? This is the picture on the cover that illustrates the topic of the stamp.

03. CACHET MAKERS
Among the more popular cachet makers are the

following:

A. **ARTCRAFT:** are perhaps the most numerous cachets available. Started in 1939, Artcraft used plain black ink engraved designs. Very clean and well executed designs were well received by stamp collectors.

B. **ARTMASTER:** celebrated 50 years of First Days in 1996 — our first cachet was issued on May 9, 1946. Founded by Bob and Mary Schmidt "in a filebox on the kitchen table," as the story goes, the business is still owned by family. Uncle Bob and Aunt Mary were collectors themselves, and always did their best to please their customers with personal service.

C. **HOUSE OF FARNAM:** is the very oldest continuously produced cachet, founded by Dusty Farnam and his wife, Vera, in Cleveland, Ohio on May 9, 1936, then Artmaster assume production in 1988. House of Farnam cachets are multi-color engravings and have a rich, distinctive appearance and texture. Early Farnam covers are single color.

D. **COVER CRAFT CACHETS:** is a line of covers founded in New Jersey by Ben Schwartz in 1964. It has been produced by Artmaster since 1988. CCCachets are made from the same

engraving plates as Farnam covers; but feature gray rather than white stock envelopes. Each comes with a stuffer card detailing the number produced for that issue as well as a short description or biography of the stamp subject.

E. FLEETWOOD: has made the finest First Day Covers in the business since 1929. Fleetwood covers are painstakingly crafted using beautiful designs created exclusively for Fleetwood collectors. Every Cover bears the coveted Fleetwood watermark and uses fine linen-finish paper made to our exacting specifications.

F. COLORANO SILK: are this country's leading manufacturer of full-color "silk" cachets for first day and special event covers. Brilliant full-color art, dazzling gold borders, and the unique look that only a "silk" cachet can offer, have made COLORANO the choice of collectors for more than 25 years.

04. HOW TO OBTAIN FIRST DAY ISSUE COVERS

A good source of information on when new stamps will be issued is in Linn's Stamp News. Linn's will give you a date of issue and an address to send for that issue. Linn's also will have ads for some of the above makers with more information on their services.



Each of the cachet makers listed above have services that you can request: You can buy their cacheted unstamped covers and place the stamp yourself and then mail it in to the post office; OR You can buy the all ready stamped, cacheted and postmarked cover.

05. MAKING YOUR OWN FIRST DAY COVERS

You can make your own covers. To do this follow these simple rules:

1. On the second day of issue go to the post office and buy the

stamps for your cover.

2. Obtain a 3X6 envelope and cut out a 'filler' card the size of the envelope. This can be almost any material, like cereal boxes, index cards, etc. Just be of strong enough material that our cover will not bend while being canceled in post office machines. Place the filler card in the envelope.

3. Using a peelable label with your address on it, place it on cover. The reason for a peelable label is so that you can remove it when you receive your cover back from the post office.

4. Place this cover inside a number 10 business envelope along with another #10 envelope for the post office to return your cover in. Make sure that there is proper postage on all stamps you want to cancel with the first day of issue.



You can even design your own cachet to match the stamp topic. Some collectors hand paint their cachets. Check in Linn's for proper address to send your home made covers to to be canceled. Simple isn't it!

ARTCRAFT FIRST DAY COVER

<http://www.washpress.com/artcraft.jsp>

Open a new issue First Day Cover subscription account tailored to your collecting preferences or make a deposit to an existing account.

The ArtCraft First Day Cover Society makes collecting ArtCraft FDCs easy and economical. Easy, because you don't have to place an order each time a new FDC becomes available. Economical, because ArtCraft Cover Society members receive new issues at specially discounted members-only prices.

Here's how it works: Add the deposit amount to your order. If you're an existing Society member, just add the funds to your 10

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 account. If you're a new member, we'll contact you to determine your collecting preferences. You'll receive a shipment of beautiful ArtCraft First Day Covers about every 3 to 4 weeks (depending on the USPS schedule of stamp issues).

ARTCRAFT will be happy to answer any questions you might have about membership. Just call our toll-free number: 1 (877) 966-0001

AMERICAN FIRST DAY COVER SOCIETY (AFDCS)

Join the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS), which has a membership of approximately 4000 collectors. The AFDCS publishes the journal First Days eight times a year – which contains informative articles about the hobby, cover exchange ads, and advertising by cachet makers.

The AFDCS conducts periodic FDC auctions, with the proceeds used to benefit the Society. They also host an annual Convention, selecting a different major city each year. The AFDCS also has a number of Chapters located around the U.S.. Most of the Chapters have monthly member meetings where information is exchanged and covers are traded. For additional information write: AFDCS, P.O. Box 65960-S Tucson, AZ 85728.

Visit their web site at: <http://www.afdcs.org/>

"All truth passes through three stages: First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident"Schopenhauer

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. -- Mark Twain



The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

-- CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2009 --

President: Trish Bowers Vice-President: Open
 Secretary: Rebecca Gilbert Treasurer: Carl Anderson
 Librarian: Ken Burnham

MEETINGS:

The club meetings are held the second Thursday of each month.

Meetings are held in the main conference room at the Post Office Main Mail Facility located at 6050 Shallowford Road in Chattanooga, TN. PLEASE be prompt - to maintain building security, the Post Office opens the doors at the entrance to the office area at 7.00 P.M. and locks them at 7.30 PM.

MEMBERSHIP: Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis. Yearly dues are \$20.00. Send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer, Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd., Signal Mountain, TN 37377 For a printed copy of any issue of the Chronicle, send \$1.42 cents in stamps to Chattanooga Stamp Club, 380 White Rd. Old Fort, TN, 37362.

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DEADLINES: The deadline for anything to be published in the Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle is the 20th of each month. E-mail is preferred, however snail mail is OK. E-mail to: texas4421@core.com

