

Knoxville Philatelic Society News

May 2008



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APS Chapter 1189-119261

www.stampclubs.com/knoxville/index.htm

www.virtualstampclub.com/apschapknoxville.html

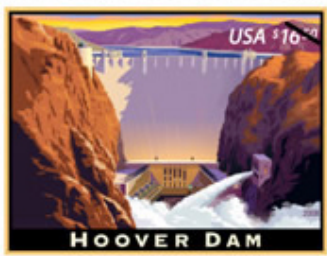
Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs

New Rates Bring New Stamps

Don't forget May 12, the day this month when new postal rates go into effect. Letters and postcards will cost a penny more – 42 cents and 27 cents. That extra ounce on a letter will be only 17 cents. If you want to “maximize” the value on a purchase of “forever” stamps, buy them on May 11 and use them on the 12th! Along with the new rates are several new stamps. A 27 cent postal card will be issued on the day of the new rate, as will new definitive stamps in the Distinguished American series featuring James Michener (59 cents) and Edward Trudeau (76 cents). The next day, you can buy a stamp featuring “Old Blue Eyes” – Frank Sinatra.

Two spectacular new designs will be issued for priority mail and express mail. The \$4.80 (increased from \$4.60) priority mail stamp shows Mount Rushmore. The \$16.50 (up from \$16.25) express mail stamp shows Hoover Dam. Both are beautiful artists' depictions of two important artistic and engineering icons of the western U.S.

Keep your eyes out for these and other new issues. And don't forget to look for interesting covers mailed at the old postal rate. Illustrations are ©www.usps.gov.



President's Column

In the past year many members have contacted me with ideas of things they thought our club would enjoy. One suggested that we join an APS program where our club would be matched up with a stamp club in Canada for trading stamps. Another member suggested that before each meeting we have a leader to help guide new collectors or returning collectors into stamp collecting. Many have suggested a live or silent auction as part of our meetings. How about a drawing for door prizes each month? I could go on and on but I'll stop here. All sound like really good ideas to me but where are the volunteers to run with these ideas? As an example, Bruce Roberts has conducted stamp exhibiting seminars prior to Knoxpex. It was his idea and he ran with it. Another example is the APS Sales circuit books available at our Fifth Tuesday meetings. I presented this suggestion to the KPS membership some years ago and took on the project. To sum it up, I've heard many suggestions for additional club activities and as good as they may be, who will make them more than a suggestion? Got an idea? Let's hear it at the next KPS meeting and be prepared to tell us how YOU can make it real.

May is the last meeting of the year for the Knoxville Philatelic Society's current administration. At the close of this meeting I'll step down as your President, and a newly elected President will take over. One of the most rewarding parts of my position this year has been welcoming new members. We have grown from about 45 to more than 60. As I've pointed out in past newsletters, the KPS has much to offer collectors, but it takes dedicated members to make things happen. I will continue to do all I can to promote stamp collecting and our club. The Knoxville Philatelic Society is the leading stamp collecting group in the Southeast, and through your volunteer and promotional efforts will continue to be the club that sets the bar for other stamp clubs.

Tom Broadhead

Jim Pettway

Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – April 1, 2008

The April 2008 meeting of the Knoxville Philatelic Society was held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalistic Church on April 1, 2008. President Jim Pettway called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 25 members and guests present. Will Dunklin, a first-time guest, was introduced. Jim announced that we gained 2 new members in March, for a grand total of 63 current members.

Tom Broadhead introduced our guest speaker, Jim Cate from Chattanooga, who presented a very interesting program on Chattanooga Straight-Line Canceleds from the Civil War. These canceleds were only used for 40 days in Chattanooga from December 9, 1863 until January 17, 1864. He gave a brief history of the circumstances surrounding the canceleds, and of the movement of the Union army and of the Civil War at that time. He showed examples of all three types of the canceleds, and has examples of the postmarks on almost every day during that period.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and published in the newsletter. Pat Goebel gave the treasurer's report which showed a current balance of \$4295.66 in the checking account, \$2642.42 in the CD, and \$150 in petty cash. She also gave a report on the Knoxpex 2008, showing a net gain of \$1287.

There was discussion about Knoxpex 2009. The following were addressed: (1) Date - March 7-8, 2009; (2) Location - Charlie Wade is in charge, the board will consider at its regular meeting; (3) Theme: Suggestions were Lincoln's birth bicentennial, Alaska and Hawaii statehood, and the Cuban revolution of

The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets the 1st and 5th Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Annual dues are \$15.00.

KPS Officers:

President	Jim Pettway
Past President	Mike Kauffman
Vice President	Ralph Dinwiddie
Treasurer	Pat Goebel
Secretary	Charlie Wade
Directors	Bruce Kinney, Stu Hanlein, Thomas Lane, Charlie Wade
APS Representative	Jim Pettway

Requests for information and submissions of articles and short notes of philatelic interest for the newsletter may be directed to Tom Broadhead, KPS, P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422 – or by e-mail to tomwb50@aol.com.

1959. The board will discuss and bring their suggestion to the meeting for a vote in May.

Ralph Dinwiddie reported that the ink cartridges for the newsletter can only be refilled a limited number of times, so our savings will be somewhat less than anticipated. Bruce Roberts announced that he is the Exhibit Chairman for the Southeast Federation Stamp Show to be held in Marietta GA in September 2008. He is appealing for a team of 4 from Knoxville to help assemble and/or take down the exhibits. If you can help, please contact Bruce. It was also mentioned that the APS National will be in Hartford in August. It is a 14 hour drive. If you are interested in attending, please contact Charlie Klinstiver. Jim Pettway had some good comments on the postcard show he recently attended, encouraging members to attend these for the covers, canceleds, and other related items for their collections.

The Board meeting and the Fifth Tuesday Meet and Swap (Buy, Sell, and Trade) and APS circuits will be on April 29, 2008.

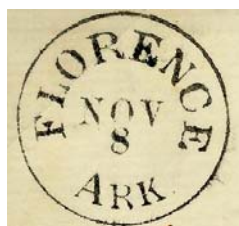
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Mynatt, Acting Secretary

May KPS Meeting Program

by Bruce Roberts

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes before a stamp or cover catalog is published? Who decides what goes in and what stays out? What about pricing? Bruce Roberts is the section editor for



Arkansas (his home state and principal postal history collecting interest) in the new Confederate States Catalog and Handbook scheduled for publication in 2010. He will describe the importance of catalogs to our

hobby and then talk about his experiences over the last year working on the new catalog.”

Stamp of the Month

Do you remember “sonic booms,” those loud, house-rattling noises produced by airplanes exceeding the speed of sound in the 1950's and 1960's? This month's stamp (Scott 3173) commemorates the 50th anniversary of supersonic flight. It is a 32 cent, die-cut 11.4, self adhesive issued October 14, 1997.



Thanks to Ralph Dinwiddie for donating these stamps.

Abraham Lincoln – the First Stamps

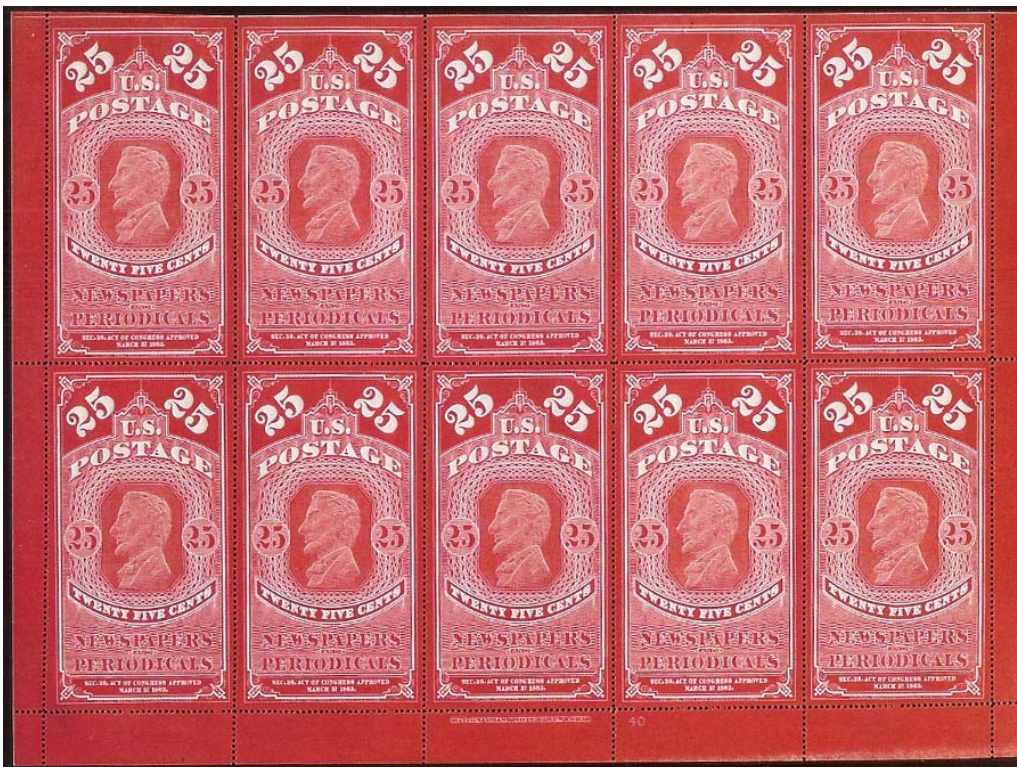
by Tom Broadhead

Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, was born on February 12, 1809 in Hardin County, Kentucky. After serving in the Illinois legislature, he was defeated in a race for U.S. senator. Elected President in 1860 and 1864, Lincoln led our nation through some of its most difficult years during the Civil War. On April 14, 1865, he was shot in the head while attending a performance at Ford's Theatre in Washington, and he died the next morning. Lincoln's image is the third most common on U.S. stamps, after Washington and Franklin, and I hope that there will be a variety of commemorative stamps issued next year to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Let's look at some of the early stamps depicting Lincoln. Usually, the 1866 issue comes to mind as the first Lincoln stamp. Issued both without a grill and also with D, E, and F grills, this 15 cent stamp paid the one ounce letter rate from the U.S. to France or Germany. It has been suggested that, in fact, it is the United States' first commemorative stamp. The black color, typical of mourning, makes this a distinct possibility, although it is not documented to have been issued specifically in Lincoln's memory. I have looked at many references, but have not been able to find a photo from which the portrait design was taken. However, it was used again for the 90 cent high value of the beautiful pictorial issue in 1869. But these were not the first Lincoln stamps!



That honor goes to a stamp issued in 1865 (month and day uncertain). The high cost of the Civil War resulted in the production of revenue stamps to tax a wide range of products and services in 1862. In 1863, an act of Congress provided for a tax on packages of newspapers handled on trains or steamships, in which subsequent handling and delivery did not go through a post office. The first U.S. newspaper stamps were issued in 1865 to prepay these fees and included the first Lincoln stamp. There is an outstanding web site featuring important information and images of these stamps. Authored by "Doc M. Pepper," this site is located at http://home.comcast.net/~pepper_clan. Information and the images shown on the next page of this article come from that site.



In 1865, three newspaper stamps were issued for the purpose of paying postage on newspaper bundles. The five cent features George Washington, the ten cent shows Benjamin Franklin, and the high value twenty-five cent has a left-facing bust of Abraham Lincoln. With designs 51 mm wide (about 2 inches) and 95 mm high (about 3¾ inches), these are the largest U.S. stamps. All three values were issued in un gummed sheets of ten stamps, printed by the National Banknote Company by typography with embossed lettering. They are spectacular!

This month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, May 6

(continued from page 3). The 25c Lincoln stamp exists printed in orange red (Scott PR3) and in carmine red (Scott PR7). An interesting website (www.historybuff.com/library/refcraig.html) by Craig Whitford indicates that some believe these stamps to have been issued April 1, 1865 – during Lincoln's lifetime. He also says that other sources suggest that they were issued in September of that year.

Unused copies catalog for a few hundred dollars, but have you ever seen a used copy? Genuinely used copies are very rare, and Pepper has a census and photos of genuine used copies, plus a few examples of counterfeits, on his web site. On his page discussing the census of the first issues (PR1-4), Pepper states that they "were attached directly to bundles of newspapers and normally cancelled with brush strokes using a thick black or blue ink. A previous researcher had estimated that only about 20 genuinely used copies of the three values combined existed. Pepper illustrates all 25 known examples – 5 of which are the 25c Lincoln. Here are two genuine used examples from his web site, also showing the reverse side of each stamp, and a faked example with a hand-stamped circular town cancellation.



Do you have an old wrapper from the 1860's lying around in your stamp room with one of these stamps on it, tied by a sloppy brush stroke? If you do, bring it to "Doc Pepper's" attention, you might be the owner of a great rarity and an example of the first U.S. stamp to show Abraham Lincoln.

KPS Elections

by Jim Pettway

At the April KPS meeting I was supposed to have announced a list of nominees for KPS offices in the coming year. Well, I slipped up and forgot! I guess no one remembered, as it was not brought to my attention at the April meeting. And now it's election time! During the May meeting, which is designated as the Annual Meeting in our Constitution, we are to elect officers. First we need a list of nominees. If you would like to volunteer to be President, VP, Secretary or Treasurer, or one of two Directors, let me know prior to the meeting Tuesday night. What is required of the officers? The President presides over all monthly meetings and the Executive Board meeting every fifth Tuesday. The VP presides over meetings when the President is unable. The Secretary takes minutes of all meetings and then sends them to the newsletter editor. The Treasurer handles all money for the KPS. This job requires experience in bookkeeping but certainly not a CPA. The Directors meet four times a year when we have fifth Tuesday meetings. If you have any questions about any of these positions please contact me. Now would be an opportune time to take an active position in your club.

Next month's KPS Meeting – Tuesday, June 3