

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

**Arlington Meetings:** First Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

**Eufless Meetings:** Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)

**Lake Granbury Meetings:** 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER MEMBER



Volume 30, Number 7

<http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

July 2017

### Been There, Done That

### Merlion

By Bob & Pat Weidman

### Newsletter Gets Vermeil Award

By Peter Elias

The stamp shown to the right, Singapore Scott #442, issued on August 9, 1984 shows the "Merlion", the symbol of Singapore. The idea of the Merlion, a mythical creature with a lion's head and the body of a fish was created by the Singapore Tourism Board in 1964. It was designed and sculpted by Lim Nang Seng to be the mascot for the city. It is the most popular tourist attraction in Singapore.



The Merlion in the first picture is Merlion Park at the waterfront. It is 8.6 meters tall and weighs 20 tons.

In the picture in front of the Merlion is Pat, myself and our nephew Adam from Pittsburgh. Adam and our other

Each year the APS has a "Chapter Newsletter Competition". We entered the newsletter for 2016 and it received a Vermeil level award. That's somewhat unusual, as it had been Gold for many years, and I have made improvements based on judges comments.

Due to the fact that our club makes the newsletter publicly accessible to anyone on the planet (not just members), there are some issues regarding privacy (such as listing members' and club officer's phone numbers and email addresses). Even if home addresses are not shown in the newsletter, since as we know, there are many websites that let you "reverse lookup" a phone number and come up with the address! I do enclose a "note to the judges" explaining why some things are the way they are.

Several judges evaluated our newsletter; here are the highlights of their comments: *meeting notices were present, but did not include a description of what to expect, the program; club needs were scant and buried in President's letter; member recognition is excellent; did not see mention of new members; photos were relevant and nicely balanced; too much space devoted to minutes; article index is a nice touch; masthead is attractive; font sometimes small for older eyes; some of the illustrations are fuzzy; bonus points for profiles, ads, cartoons and good philatelic articles; lots of minutes—need more articles; consider having title & logo in color; inconsistent numbers [editor : huh?]; missing punctuation, look up rule on who vs. that; add info on social media accounts [editor: the club doesn't have any]; ads & classifieds look cluttered & messy with mixed color; bonus points members' ads and cartoons.*



nephew Louis, youth member Louie Kosanovich's father from here in Ft. Worth, who took picture, accompanied us on our trip to Asia back in 2003.

Picture two is of the Merlion on Sentosa Island, right off the southern coast of Singapore. It is the tallest Merlion in Singapore at 37 meters tall.

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# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:news@mid-citiesstampclub.com))

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### 2017 - 2018 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Ray Cartier  
First Vice-President – Ray Moyer  
Second Vice-President – Richard Hildebrandt  
Secretary – Benedict Termini  
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

#### Board of Directors (voting):

Alliene Franklin      Ralph Poore      Ken Wills

Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area. Dues are \$12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : [editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

For a membership application write to:

**Mid-Cities Stamp Club**  
**P.O. Box 2158**  
**Arlington, TX 76004-2158**

or visit: <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

## Coming Attractions

### 2017

**JUN. 27**      **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**  
Program: “How to Collect 1 Stamp” By Stan Christmas

**JUL. 5**      **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**  
Program: Mixture Pick + 5 to 8 minute volunteer speaker Ray Cartier “*Earliest Days of the Mid City Stamp Club*”  
*Also: Submit items for the August Auction!*

**JUL. 19**      **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**  
Program: TBD

**JUL. 25**      **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**  
Program: Club member auction

**AUG. 2**      **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**  
Program: Club Auction

**AUG. 16**      **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**  
Program: TBD

**AUG. 22**      **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**  
Program: “Collecting Stamps Related to Sports” by Jim Case

**AUG. 25-26**      **TSDA Bourse**  
Richardson Civic Center, Arapaho Rd & US75

## Editor’s Forum

By Peter Elias

New this month is a “member survey” (see page 3). The club would like your feedback on a number of issues. The last time this was done was in 1995/1996 based on a similar survey that I found in my archives.

Please mail this survey back to me at the address shown on the survey form (same as the return address for this newsletter) so that it arrives on or before July 19. Please do NOT mail the survey to the club’s address in Arlington, as that would delay getting it to me, possibly even after the deadline. I do on occasion attend the Arlington & Euless meetings and you can try to give the survey in person, but I can’t guarantee that I can make it to the July meetings. I will then tabulate the results and hope to have those published in the August newsletter.

As an incentive, the club is offering a “door prize” drawing of a \$10 certificate for every 10 eligible surveys received (so for example, if we receive 30 surveys, this will result in 3 certificates to be drawn); so basically, your chances are 1 in 10 !

Also, at the last BOD / EXPO meeting, it was decided that the club’s “door prize certificates” are ALSO valid with the dealer’s at the TSDA Richardson bourses; this way you won’t have to wait to use them at EXPO dealers (or at club meetings for purchases from the Club or APS Sales Books). Think about it: with a \$10 certificate, you could buy at least \$10 in mint USA postage from the dealers !

When submitting stamps, or images of stamps, for articles, please use “mint”, not used stamps. Unfortunately many times, the postmarks will obscure some or much of the design (which is of course what we want to illustrate - unless it is of course the postmark that is the subject). If you can’t find a mint version of the stamp, there are several other choices. For the more common USA stamps (ie: starting in the 1930’s), I probably have a mint copy from my own collection that I can use and scan, for other stamps, we might be able to find an image on the internet somewhere (<https://images.google.com/> is a good place to start). If using an image from the internet, we would have to acknowledge the source of the image in the article.

## Secretary’s Report

By Benedict Termini



### New Members

None

### Reinstatements

None

### Membership Summary – June 7, 2017

Membership as of May 3, 2017	99
New Members	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( )
Resignations	( )
Deceased	( )
Reinstatements	
Membership as of June 7, 2017	99

## Mid-Cities Stamp Club Member Survey

**1. What is your preference for the following programs and activities conducted presently (or in the past) at Mid-Cities Stamp Club meetings:**

→ Which meetings do you attend: ...Arlington (\_\_\_ per year) ...Euless (\_\_\_ per year) ...Granbury (\_\_\_ per year)  
...None, I do not live in the DFW Metroplex

	Love	Like	Ho-Hum	Dislike	Why Bother?	Need More	Just right	Need Less
Announcements .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attendance Prize Drawings .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular (semi-annual) auctions .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mini-auctions .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean Out Your Closet .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exchanging Stamps .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Panel Discussions .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Show & Tell .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slide or PowerPoint Programs (APS, ATA, etc) ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speakers on various topics .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socializing with fellow collectors .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**2. How frequently do you use the following club services:**

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Comments:
MCSC Club (member) sales books .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
APS sales books .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Library (use or check out books) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**3. Which of these do you frequent at the annual EXPO:**

	Yes	Sometimes	No	Comments:
Stamp Dealers .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
USPS Booth .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Silent Auction .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Stamp Exhibits .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Giant Mixture Pick .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Chance Board .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Judges Exhibit Critique .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
President's Reception .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Awards Dinner .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**4. Would you use any of these proposed services and activities?:**

Order new issues from the USPS (with a flat \$1 postage charge) ? \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Any suggestions for other types of programs and services?** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Are you interested in giving a program at one of our meetings?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

I would need assistance with the following: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Which philatelic books, stamp catalogs or other philatelic publications would you like to see added to the club library:**

Please mail this survey to: **Peter Elias, c/o Mid-Cities Stamp Club Survey, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427**  
 Please mail to arrive on or before July 19, 2017. If you want to be eligible for a \$10 door prize (there will be 1 door prize drawn for every 10 eligible submitted surveys!), please fill in your name below.  
 (Note: This survey is for current Mid-Cities Stamp Club members only): \_\_\_\_\_

## Coffee With A View

By Peter Elias

Many of us enjoy coffee. Much of the coffee served isn't that good. Not that the beans aren't good, primarily I've found that there's not enough coffee grounds used to make the coffee! In other words, if I can see through it as its' being poured, it's dishwasher as far as I'm concerned... such as in your average office break room. Luckily that has changed in the past few years...

For me, quality coffee requires:

1. A fine grind, thus more surface area is exposed and the more contact water makes with the coffee.
2. Using more coffee grinds. I've seen way too many times that there just isn't enough coffee put into the filter basket.
3. A quality roast. That's more of a personal preference. It can range from mild (light colored) roasted beans to heavy roasts, such as are used in espresso and cappuccino coffees; these beans are generally almost black and have an "oily" look to them. I prefer a dark roast and a fine grind!

Coffee bean origin is of course important as well, that can range from places such as South America, Africa and Indonesia (home of "Java"). Personally, I like Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee and Hawaiian Kona the best and Italy & Switzerland rank as some of the best places to buy coffee in restaurants, England not so much (I speak with experience!). On the other hand, I was in a hotel on Trinidad in 1999, and they served "instant" coffee!

A few years back, I was in Kingston, Jamaica on a business trip and took a drive into the blue mountains and also ended up buying a couple of bags of Blue Mountain coffee at a local grocery store (where it was considerably cheaper than at the airport!). You gotta shop where the locals go!

What turned me on to "good coffee" to begin with was a couple of roommates in college that took me to a coffee store to buy various blends and teaching me to use the proper amount of coffee using Melitta filters and a carafe.

As they say in the real estate business: "location, location, location". In the summer of 2013, we visited Switzerland and did a brief day-hike to scenic Sertig Dörfli (a small village at the end of the Sertig valley near Davos). Looking at THAT view on a beautiful day and enjoying a great cup of Swiss coffee ... I mean, what could be better? ... Sigh ... wish I could be there now!



2017 Coffee scented stamp from India



## Are The Killers Hiding?

By Ken Wills

Traditionally, US postmarks have consisted of two parts: the date stamp and what is called a killer. The idea was for the date stamp to be on a clear part of the envelope so that it could be read, and the killer would cancel the stamp so that it could not be reused. The killers evolved from bars and wavy lines to slogans and seasonal messages. Last year's 'seasons greetings' was indeed a killer:



Perhaps the USPS listened to stamp collectors' complaints, as they seem to have eliminated the killer portion of the cancel altogether:



It's a little mysterious that the USPS is no longer concerned that people will soak off uncanceled stamps and reuse them, even though that is actually illegal. Could it be that the switch from self-adhesive stamps with a water soluble layer to ones which cannot be soaked off has convinced the post office officials that reuse is no longer possible?

## Arlington Meeting Minutes June 7, 2017

By Ben Termini

### **Call-to-Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Club President Ray Cartier.

### **Attendance:**

There were 19 members and 2 guests present (Tommie Dougan and Marcos Elias).

### **Officer & Committee Reports:**

- Secretary Ben Termini reported that we had 99 members with no change since our last meeting. He passed around a card from the widow of former member Bill Bradshaw.
- Treasurer Judy Christmas reported that our finances were in good shape and that we had over \$16,000 in our bank account.
- Sales Books: Skip Ely said sales were slowing down especially APS books and mentioned that he was considering discontinuing them in the future.
- EXPO Committee chairman Ralph Poore reported that the EXPO was on track. Judy Christmas passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Ken Aldridge mentioned that security had already been lined up.
- Newsletter: Editor Peter Elias said things were going fine. President Ray Cartier presented Peter with a vermeil award from the APS for the newsletter (Class II, multipage).

### **Announcements:**

- Don't forget the TSDA bourse June 23-24.

### **Show & Tell:**

- Alliene Franklin showed a document from Finland which said that Finnish Postal Workers will mow your lawn for a fee but they do not come to Texas.
- Stanley Christmas showed an envelope he had received from Sweden with some interesting stamps and a letter returned for an address.
- Ray Cartier showed a cover from 1983 which had an imperforate 20c flag stamp on it.
- Ken Aldridge showed a 6c stamp with a double transfer on it and a number of postal cards he had received with advertisements on them.
- Ben Termini passed around a copy of his new catalog on Sanitary Service revenues from Rosario, Argentina.
- Ralph Poore passed around an old British document with revenue stamps affixed.
- Peter Elias showed some South African documents and passed around some unusual post office cardboard boxes.

### **Door Prizes:**

Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Judy Christmas, Ray Moyer, Alliene Franklin and Ken Aldridge. There will now be four gift certificates awarded at the Arlington meetings as a result of action taken at the last board meeting.

### **Program:**

Ray Cartier gave a talk on Stratospheric Balloon Flights which was well received.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

## Eules Meeting Minutes June 21, 2017

By Skip Ely

### **Call-to-order:**

The mid-month monthly meeting of the Mid Cities Stamp Club met at the Central Marketing Offices of club member Evan Islam in Eules at 7:30 PM.

### **Attendance:**

There were 8 members present.

### **Officer Reports:**

- Secretary – Mike Smith gave the membership report.
- Treasurer – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Sales – Skip Ely said that sales had improved and we had several new club books.

### **Announcements:**

- Jim Myers mentioned that the TSDA Stamp Fair was coming up this weekend in Richardson (June 23 & 24).
- Mike Smith said he would investigate obtaining some APS DVDs from the Dallas Park Cities Club for future Eules programs.

### **Show & Tell:**

Several members either showed items or discussed recent philatelic activities.

### **Mini-Auction:**

A couple of members had items for sale.

### **Door Prizes:**

Gift Certificates were awarded to Jack Urish and Mike Smith.

### **Program:**

The program was the Show & Tell.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned around 9:00 PM.

## Granbury Meeting Minutes May 24, 2017

By William Atkinson

16 members and guests assembled at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Ct., in Granbury, for the May 24 meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

Host David Stockbridge dispensed with the usual format to introduce auctioneer Skip Ely and start the third installment of the Donohoo Estate Auction. Of 74 lots, about half were single stamps and sets from around the world, some bringing winning bids in excess of \$70. The remainder of the lots were worldwide accumulations on approval sheets or number 102 cards, plus "red box" accumulations in glassine envelopes. As expected, the worldwide varieties brought winning bids as high as \$100, with a total realization that night of \$2,073.

While bidders paid for their purchases, door prizes were awarded to Nancy Smith, Lloyd Willis and Skip Ely.

## MCSC EXPO Meeting Minutes May 20, 2017

By Skip Ely

The MCSC EXPO Committee met at The Pizza Garden in Bedford 12:30 AM on May 20, 2017 (A BOD meeting preceded the EXPO meeting). Present were EXPO Chairperson Ralph Poore, Treasurer Judy Christmas, and Committee members Stanley Christmas, Tom Cunningham, Peter Elias, Bob Weidman, Rich Hildebrandt, Mike Smith, Ken Wills, Ray and Janet Moyer, Ray Cartier, and Skip Ely.

- **BOURSE** - The meeting began with Tom Cunningham reviewing the dealer participants and their locations at EXPO. Four dealers at previous EXPOs will not return, but Tom has five new dealers lined up. He said the move of the Beginner's table and Chance Board to the foyer, and space vacated from dealers not returning, means he doesn't need the space currently occupied by the Exhibits (so no extra room required). He mentioned that one dealer will need some labor to help with moving her stock contained in filing cabinets.
- **EXHIBITS** - Stanley Christmas said he would have prospectus's available by the end of the month, but already had several frames filled.
- **FRAMES** - Stanley noted that Evan Islam had offered to furnish a truck for transporting the frames from the current storage unit to EXPO, and from EXPO to a new storage unit. Ray and Janet Moyer said they would start looking for a new storage unit closer to the Grapevine Convention Center. Ralph Poore said we could have the main EXPO hall until 10 PM Saturday to mark and/or repair the frames.
- **BANQUET** - Rich Hildebrandt reviewed our earlier decision to have Prime Rib, with tickets costing \$25.
- **BEGINNER'S TABLE** - Skip Ely said he saw no problem in moving the Beginner's table to the foyer (it might even enhance its visibility).
- **CACHET** - Ralph Poore showed a possible example we might use.
- **CHANCE BOARD** - Ray Cartier said we need some help in reinforcing the new board. Ray Moyer offered to help.
- **FINANCE** - Judy Christmas briefly reviewed our financial status, concluding everything was on track.
- **HOSPITALITY / REGISTRATION** - Janet Moyer requested we have participant's names by September so she can prepare name tags. She agreed to also prepare the Raffle tickets for the U.S. number one stamp awarded to the club at this year's TEXPEX.
- **JUDGES** - Peter Elias reviewed the three judges who have accepted our invitation to EXPO.
- **LUNCHESES** - Judy Christmas said she was exploring ways to facilitate the lunch orders with Jason's Deli.
- **MIX PICK** - Bob Weidman said he had found some additional locations to obtain stamps for the table.
- **MAIL OUT** - Stanley Christmas said he wanted to continue offering additional Gift Certificates for people participating in the October envelope stuffing.
- **PUBLICITY** - Peter Elias talked about finding free outlets for EXPO publicity.
- **SECURITY** - Stanley said that Ken Aldridge had said this area was in good shape.
- **SILENT AUCTION** - Ken Wills said we had some material left over from last year, but we needed more quality items to

## President's Comments

by Ray Cartier

If you like to go on vacations, consider visiting a stamp show as part of your itinerary. I have visited seven on my Air Force buddies over the past several years by visiting them and seeing the local sites while a stamp show was in play. The first benefit is that you will see many new dealers who may have something that fits nicely into your own collection(s). The next is that you may run into a few people you've met before in your hobby. We generally see four or five familiar faces as we traipse around the country each year.

If you belong to one of the many study groups, you can let some of the people with whom you may have had contacts, especially those living in the area of the show, that you'll be there. If that's the case bring some duplicates to trade and add to your enjoyment of the event. Also, many organizations have meetings at many of the WSP (World Series of Philately) shows and you might go to meet and share info about your particular interests with people you may have heard of or from, but never have had a chance to sit down for a spell and chat.

My Space Unit group gathers once a year and we usually have a speaker, a dinner together and a huge swap and talk session at the home of one of the members. These get-togethers strengthen ties and it's possible that someone in the group has one of those elusive stamps or covers that you've been looking for.

Take a look at the exhibits while you're there. Even though there is a lot of specialization that usually appeals to only a few people, you may run across a "WOW" exhibit or two. And if someone is showing something in which you have an interest, you may come back with an idea for a new collection and maybe someday --- an exhibit of your own!

The Houston Stamp Show isn't too far away and if you go there, by all means get a ticket to their Awards Banquet. It is usually a very fun-filled evening and extremely entertaining. You'll come back with some rich memories. About the same distance away, but north of us is the two day OKPEX annual show. They meet in restaurants on Thursday and Friday nights and hold their awards breakfast in another restaurant. They aren't one of the biggest shows in the nation, but the folks up there are a friendly lot.

In the comic strip, "Dennis the Menace", the next door neighbor is Mr. Wilson, a crotchety old guy who collects stamps just for the sake of getting away from other people. But he doesn't go to shows or stamp club meetings where the fun of collecting resides. Take a break and visit a show and also go to a few more of our meetings and mill around a bit. There are a lot of friendly people at these events and they are one group of people who can really understand why you are in the great hobby of philately.

meet our financial goal.

- **SNACKS** - Ken Aldridge oversees this area.
- **DRINKS** - Mike Smith said he procures these prior to the October picnic.
- **VOLUNTEERS** - There was a brief discussion about recruiting additional volunteers. Judy agreed to help coordinate this effort.
- **ACTION ITEMS FOR THE SUMMER** - Ralph Poore reviewed the EXPO activities scheduled for the next three months.
- **NEXT MEETING** - Scheduled for September 9, and a location to be determined. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

# Been There, Done That

## Hoverspeed

By Peter Elias

On the 19th of August, 1991, I found myself in Calais, France (along with a family member, an old friend and a college buddy). As we were pondering what to do for dinner, the thought was: "let's go over to Dover" !



Since Calais was a port of landing for the Hovercraft operated by Hoverspeed, we bought some round-trip tickets to Dover. We had driven to Calais (via Amsterdam, starting off in Frankfurt originally), but decided to leave our cars in Calais and proceeded to be "walk on" passengers. We left near dusk. Cars drive into the middle of the Hovercraft, while people are seated on either side in aircraft style seating.

HOVERSPEED		Passenger Coupon		E 15 92	
FROM	TO	SERVICE NO.	DATE	ADULTS	VEHICLE
OUT	IN			CHILD	INCLUSIVE
Registration No.		Agents A/C No.	Form of Payment	INFANTS	NO SEAT
Vehicle Length		Trailer/Caravan Length	Issuing Office Date Stamp	STUDENTS	ALLOCATED
Name of Driver/Party Leader		HOVERSPED (1981) LTD		GROUP COURIER etc.	FREE
TOTAL PAX		TOTAL FARE		TOTAL FARE	

I'm one of those people that saves tickets from my travels, as they add nicely to photo albums later. Above is the ticket stub for our ride (Elias is in the lower left-hand corner). Unlike an aircraft though, there was no real "security", we just walked on board, just as cars simply drove onto the hovercraft. It was definitely an interesting ride across the English channel !

After taking a bus from the "Hoverport" to Dover, we then proceeded to walk around Dover a bit and had dinner in an English pub. Getting back to Calais was a bit different though.



Our ride back was on a large twin-hulled catamaran that had 20,000 horsepower engines; it was an interesting high speed ride back to Calais.

Hoverspeed ceased operations in 2005. Hovercraft were very expensive to operate. Most cross-Channel traffic now is via the "Chunnel" underneath. The end of an era, at least I got to experience it!

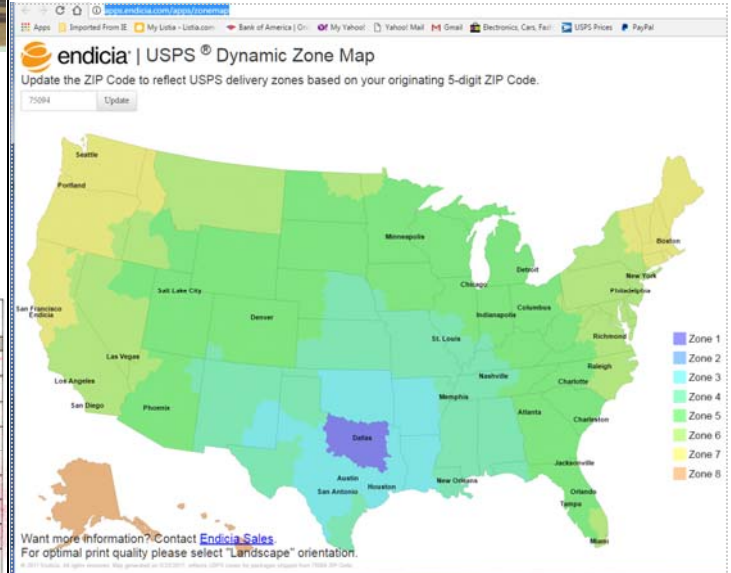
← Lesotho souvenir sheet featuring hover craft. Image is courtesy of [www.stampworld.com](http://www.stampworld.com)



## News from the Internet

By Peter Elias

In a previous article I had mentioned that US Postal Service uses "Zones" in some cases to determine the postage rate, such as when using the "Regional Rate" flat-rate boxes. The Zip Code that you are mailing from and to will determine the Zone. One of the USPS authorized postage vendors, Endicia, has a website that gives you a visual map of the zones that pertain to you (i.e.: your own zip code). You can access this site here: <http://apps.endicia.com/apps/zonemap>. A representative Zone map for the USA based on my own Zip Code of 75094 looks like this:



The USPS itself has a similar site located at: <https://postcalc.usps.com/DomesticZoneChart>. The USPS, however, represent the Zones in a table format such as the cropped screenshot shown below:

ZIP Code	Zone	ZIP Code	Zone	ZIP Code	Zone
005	6	373---374	5	690---693	5
006---009	8	375	4	700---701	4
010---065	7	376---379	5	703---704	4
066	6	380---397	4	705---706	3
067	7	398---418	5	707---708	4
068---098	6	420---424	4	710---714	3*
100---119	6	425---427	5	716---717	3
120---123	7	430---438	5	718	3*
124---127	6	439	6	719---722	3
128---129	7	440---474	5	723---724	4
130---212	6	475---477	4	725---728	3

So when sending priority mail packages, see if you can save some money by looking into the "Regional Rate" boxes!

# CLASSIFIED BOURSE

## Announcements

All club members that are current with their dues payments are entitled to FREE ads in this space! Please send ad to: Peter Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427, give it to me at a meeting, or e-mail me at: [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com)

## For Sale

**US POSTAGE – from our huge surplus: 1c – 20c : 70% of FV; 21c – 50c : 80% of FV.** Send any amount (min \$10), specify group (70%, 80%), and receive mix of values back in FV as indicated above. Clean, F/VF only. Plate or Zip block included for every \$10 remitted. Remit (check or MO) to: J. Myers, P. O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019. TX orders, add 8% sales tax. We cover return postage, S/H charges. Can also take PayPal (same terms). [jasdmyers@earthlink.net](mailto:jasdmyers@earthlink.net) 5/15

## *Been There, Done That*

### Verona, Italy

By Bob & Pat Weidman

On our 2013 trip to Italy, one of the places we stopped was Verona. The city is located in northern Italy, between Milan and Venice.

In the picture, Pat is standing in front of the Madonna Fountain. It is located in the middle of Piazza Erba in Verona and was built way back in the year 1368 by Cansignorio with marble taken from the ancient Roman forum and thermal baths. It was erected to celebrate the building of an aqueduct that supplied water to Verona from Aresa's low river.

The stamp is Italy Scott #1252 that pictures the fountain and was issued on December 21, 1976.



## For Sale

Do you collect **used USA Plate Number Coils**? Select what you want from my [extensive](#) inventory at 1/3 of Scott catalog value. They are listed on my website at <http://web2.iadfw.net/wills/> and from there you will find links to other countries too. Also interested in trading. Ken Wills 9/11

**Philatelic Reference CD's.** The following self-running, philatelic reference CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- [APC Conversions 2012-2014](#) (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)
- [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
- [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- [4 Rings—The History of Audi](#) (Great for any car lover!)
- [My Life on Wheels](#) (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
- [St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans](#) (1,700 items!!)
- [St. Vincent Postcards](#) (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- [Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959](#) (900+ postcards !!)

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 9.95 each. Non-member price is \$19.95 (+ \$3.45 domestic or \$6.00 international postage) each. PayPal to [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094 6/16

**MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES!** Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: [jstrubelboy@aol.com](mailto:jstrubelboy@aol.com) 12/14

## Wanted to Buy

**Interesting “stuff”,** such as:

- ◆ Worldwide Revenue stamps on document
- ◆ Worldwide ATM stamps, such as those from Frama, Klüssendorf, Epelsa, Mobba Postage Vending machines and other “on-demand” printed postage (but NOT “ATM Booklet stamps”) from around the world, preferably on cover, postcards or parcel cards.
- ◆ CVP and custom order stamps, such as the “PhotoStamps” from Zazzle, Stamps.com, Endicia, etc.

Contact me at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) with scans. 4/14

**U.S. Liberty Series precancels.** Unsorted, on paper, quantities okay. Contact Gene Atkinson at [atkinson@our-town.com](mailto:atkinson@our-town.com). 4/15

**Postally used “ATM” stamps** (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Peter Elias, [info@stvincentstamps.com](mailto:info@stvincentstamps.com) 8/14

## Wanted to Trade

I have general (unsorted) worldwide & used USA stamps (mostly beginning collector material) available to trade for your items such as worldwide revenue stamps & Framas. Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 9/16





## MEET & EAT for July & August 2017

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

“Meet and Eats” are before the club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather between 5:00 and 5:30 PM. The group will start ordering at 5:30 PM. Latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit (check with the restaurant first if it serves buffet style). Meals should be over around 6:45 PM.

Meet and Eat locations will be included the club’s broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are subject to change.

### ARLINGTON

- July 5                    Angelos Steak and Spaghetti:  
2590 W Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX  
(817) 303-7242  
<http://www.angelosspaghetti.com/>
- August 2                Jay Jay Café, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington 76013  
(817) 861-1060  
<http://www.yelp.com/biz/jay-jay-cafe-nbr-2-arlington>

### EULESS

*Due to the new meeting location, meet-n-eat meeting sites have yet to be determined, the club secretary will e-mail the details once known.*

## Wanted to Buy

Wanted to buy or trade for: **Worldwide unusual EFOs, postal counterfeits**, Odd US 20th century auxiliary markings, US 1934 and 1935 Christmas Seals on and off cover and publicity material, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contingents, and any other US philatelic material with an interesting story. John Hotchner, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or [jmhstamp@verizon.net](mailto:jmhstamp@verizon.net) 2 /15

## For Sale

**PhotoStamps, ZazzleStamps & PictureItPostage** in a variety of different designs. For a listing of available designs and to purchase, go to <http://photostamps.webs.com> and use your credit card to purchase them (via PayPal). 12/15

I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

**USPS Commemorative Yearbooks** with stamps at face value of postage. For listing of what years are available and price e-mail Dave at [stockdave44@yahoo.com](mailto:stockdave44@yahoo.com) 8/11

**FREE 111-page or 26-page album** of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps! Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 6/17

Mid-Cities Stamp Club “Stamping Around” Newsletter  
c/o Peter Elias  
PO Box 940427  
Plano, TX 75094-0427

**Don't Forget:**  
**Mail in your Survey Responses!**  
**TSDA Bourse - August 25 - 26**