Stamp Collecting Month Depicts Bats

The U.S. Postal Service will commemorate National Stamp Collecting Month by issuing a set of four stamps depicting American bats in early October.

The designs are based on live subjects which were captured, photographed, and then released unharmed when done. Dr. Merlin D. Tuttle of Bat Conservation International was the photographer. The stamps will be available in a sheetlet of 20, probably at the proposed 37 cent rate, with photographs on the selvage.

As we have in the past, the Chapter Activities Committee is making a common cancel available for events your Chapter is planning in October. The design is depicted here and was done by Tom Fortunato.

Don't wait until the last minute to decide you want a cancel! The USPS normally requires eight weeks advanced notice of designs so they may go through their approval process. There is no charge for the rubber stamp cancellation device, as they are paid for by the USPS.

To get a customized cancellation design to submit to your local post office, you need to provide us with the following information: name and number of your APS Chapter, date in October the cancel will be used, and the city, state and zip code.

Send that information with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Stamp Collecting Month Cancel, 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022.

You also have the option to send details by e-mail to stamptmf@frontiernet.net and Tom will return the final image to you electronically.

Stamp Show Ideas, by Harry Meier, Manager Stamp Show Operations

The last page of the Winter 2002 CAC Newsletter is a “Philatelic Show Questionnaire” asking chapters that hold stamp shows for information about their shows. It is intended as a way of learning the status of shows in the United States. The size of the event and other information may lead to ideas on how to help the various shows.

We also want to have an idea as to the level of activity there is in exhibiting, primarily at local and regional levels. It is hoped that knowing more about the local and regional shows, they could be supported as a starting place for more exhibits in their progression toward national-level exhibitions.

If you have not done so already, please fill in the questionnaire as fully as possible in order to make the results meaningful. If your chapter no longer has stamp shows, we would like you to tell us why you stopped. If there are other things that you would like to add, please feel free to do so.

Return the questionnaires by June 1, 2002. When they are returned and reviewed, the information will be summarized and reported in the CACN.

If you do not have the questionnaire available, send your stamp show comments to Harry Meier, Manager Stamp Show Operations, P.O. Box 369, Palmyra, VA 22963.
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Visit the CAC Website at  
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**Further Information**

The CAC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Chapter Activities Committee of the American Philatelic Society. Further information on the Chapter Activities Committee or on Chapter club membership in the APS is available from the Committee members listed on this page or by contacting APS, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803.

**Reprinting Policy**

Individuals or Chapters are welcome to reprint material from the CAC Newsletter, with proper credit given to the source.

**Address Changes**

Any address changes for Chapter mailings from APS should be sent to APS Headquarters at the address above, phone 814-237-3803, ext. 209, or fax 814-237-6128. Please do not send address changes to committee members.

**Copies of the CACN**

Subscriptions of the CACN are available from the APS for those dedicated club members who want newsletters of their own. Cost is $8 per 4 issues. Send a check payable to the APS, attention CACN Subscription and specify CAC Newsletters.

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**CACN Deadlines**

Summer — May 1  
Fall — August 1  
Winter — November 1  
Spring — February 1
Read through the following letter and give some thought to its message.

The location of a stamp exhibition is of prime importance. Too often we stamp collectors put our exhibits in inaccessible places because good convention centers are lacking or the price is out of line. Hotels are good, I must agree, but these may restrict attendance, too, especially among the younger set.

Next April 26–28 our club is staging an open competitive show. Our exhibition committee is addressing itself to the problem of how to present fine philatelic material in a place accessible to the general public — in fact in an area trafficked by the general public. We feel that our golden anniversary exhibit not only should bring the finest stamps and collections to area philatelists, but should encourage the occasional collector and promote the hobby to the general public.

We feel we have the answer.

Just recently an entire downtown block was transformed into a covered mall and the area as rebuilt to become Midtown Plaza, an undertaking that has received worldwide publicity. Our club will stage its open exhibit and conduct its bourse on this mall, on the mezzanine and in a new auditorium off the mezzanine; and the space available is large.

Visitors (both the occasional passerby and the dedicated philatelist) will see stamps in a setting that probably is unique.

We are inviting specialist groups to hold meetings in our city at this time so that they can see this new approach to stamp exhibitions. And we are welcoming collectors throughout the country — in fact throughout the world — to show in this setting.

Our location has the prestige that you mention in your editorial as being important. But even more vital, we feel, is the established traffic pattern that will augment the usual show attendance and spread information on stamp collecting.

John Seymour, President

What do you think about this letter? It’s from a club planning to hold a mini-international exhibit on its 50th club anniversary, inviting some of the top collections and collectors from around the world. Could a mall host such an event?

In the words of the legendary commentator Paul Harvey, “And now, the rest of the story.”

I spent much of my free time between Thanksgiving and New Years going through photos and articles in the archives of my local club, the Rochester Philatelic Association. I ran across the item above as an article appearing in the August 28, 1962, issue of Stamp Collector. I lightly edited it to remove the date, city and club references.

The show they were talking about was one which actually took place in 1963 at what was then the brand new Midtown Plaza in downtown Rochester, NY. Exhibitors from 14 states, the District of Columbia, and four foreign countries participated, as did thousands of philatelists and ordinary shoppers who passed through the show floor.

That was nearly 40 years ago.

Today, costs for exhibition space with all the trimmings are ridiculous. Attendance is down. Unfortunately, there are fewer exhibitors as well. Those concerns in the article ring just as true now.

Isn’t it time we re-think our own shows? Maybe some of our answers can be found in the past.

If you’d like to learn more about the 1963 show, check out the RPA Archives online at http://www.geocities.com/rpaarchives/index.html. It set the stage for another major show held here in 1968, where the APS met and the “Champion of Champions” was born.
Fun With the Greetings from America Stamps
by MaryAnn Bowman, Youth Activities Manager

The Greeting from America stamps offer an opportunity to help young collectors creatively learn about all 50 of our states, a geographic region, or even one specific state.

One idea to try is a compare-and-contrast activity, a skill taught and reinforced in the elementary class setting. The new stamp design is based on the nostalgia of the linen picture post cards with the big letters proclaiming “Greetings from ____”.

When the stamp design was announced, I immediately began to keep my eyes open for post cards that were similar to the stamp design. They were not hard to find. Initially, I focused my buying attention to examples from my state, Wisconsin. I found many different varieties but chose a half dozen that represented some interesting differences.

Later, I decided to add examples from as many different states as possible with the hope that I might be able to get one post card to represent each state. (This can be an expensive undertaking as I found out that from deltiologist’s point of view, these “big letter” post cards are very collectible.) I was lucky enough to find a post card dealer who was willing to sell me the cards at 25¢ each when I explained how I was going to use them in the classroom. (I didn’t hurt that his daughter was also in the education profession and he was very familiar with the out-of-pocket expenses most teachers incur.)

You might begin your activity by querying youth as to what images, symbols, landmarks, etc., of their state might be incorporated into the stamp design. Make a list of their suggestions. Then show them the stamp design. Explain that the stamps are reminiscent of a bygone day when postcards were used to send greeting back home to non-vacationing friends and relatives. Then bring out the picture post cards that you have managed to obtain. Use this opportunity to look at the similarities and differences between the stamp design and the post card. This can be done orally with a small group. In a larger educational setting, a teacher might prefer to have the students create a Venn diagram or write compare-and-contrast paragraphs.

Design-a-stamp activities are standard at youth tables and as contest fare. Give this old activity a new twist and tap into the creative and artistic abilities of the 10- to 12-year-old collector. Provide an outline of your state to each youngster. Tell them that they will be designing a stamp that incorporates the shape of the state’s outline. Have the children rotate the map outlines as they try to visualize a picture that could be drawn that incorporates the outline of the state. Once they have their idea, they should trace the state’s outline within the stamp design (standard-sized paper with either photocopies perforations or perforations cut into the paper). Using markers, crayons, or colored pencils, have each child color his design as well as the scene (context) the state-shaped design is located within. Some state shapes are easier to work with than others and thus outline/design possibilities can be envisioned more easily.

Continued on page 5
Greetings From America, continued from page 4

If that sounds too hard, and you have access to graphic programs on your computer, create your own big letter “Greeting from” stamp design. Then have your youth color in scenes that they feel best represent their state.

A complementary activity: go on a state scavenger hunt using a stamp catalog. You might need to conduct a mini-lesson on the use of a catalog as well as the use of any indexes available. For example: find the catalog number of a stamp that shows your state bird, state flag, a stamp honoring your state’s centennial (or sesquicentennial), a famous person from your state, etc. Depending upon the knowledge and abilities of your youth, you may have to provide more specific clues.

Another popular youth activity is to draw a cachet on an envelope and submit it for a first day cancellation. Try this, instead. Create a fold-out postcard pack of scenes from your state. There are several ways to accomplish this, and the kids can work individually or in groups.

Use four unlined 4-by-6-inch white file cards taped side by side, or cut a sheet of white construction paper in half horizontally and tape the two strips together. Fold the strip accordion style into four sections. Open the folded paper and place it on a flat surface so that it forms two peaks (like the letter M).

If desired, a case can be created for the postcards. Measure the size of one of the postcards. Cut a cover from the folded edge of a manila file folder. This will become the case into which the postcards are inserted. (Two cases can be made from a folder.) Use a glue stick to attach the left rectangle to the underside of the manila folder, leaving three postcards to tumble out in a cascading fashion.

Have the children choose three different scenes to represent their state, coloring one on each of the remaining three sections (postcards). You may want the kids to color their postcard pack. Add the appropriate “Greeting from America” stamp and send for their first day cancellation.

If you do a project with the “Greetings from America” stamps, I’d love to hear about it and share it with others. Send your ideas to me at P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.

Update Your Chapter’s Online Info

The APS maintains a very comprehensive online database listing your chapter’s contact information. It can be found at http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_LocalClubs.htm on the Internet.

Web surfers are constantly accessing these pages to find out details about local clubs and collectors in their area. It is very important to your Chapter that this information is correct and up to date. Please take a few minutes to review your group’s data.

E-mail any corrections to Connie Swartz at connie@stamps.org, or write to her at the APS, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803-8000.

Seeking CAC Webmaster

The APS Chapter Activities Committee is seeking a Webmaster to update our online content. If you or another club member is interested, please contact Tom Fortunato, Chairman, APS Chapter Activities Committee, 42 Maynard Street, Rochester, NY 14615-2022; or e-mail stamptmf@frontiernet.net.
A Disturbing New Policy at Linn’s Stamp News
by Denise Stotts, Manager, Club Operations

For those of you who have been reading about this online, I apologize for the redundancy — for those who haven’t, we feel that this is a very important issue.

In mid-December, our club received a new form from Linn’s Stamp News advertising their “Stamp Events Calendar” listings, with the form to fill out. Linn’s has offered this service to club shows for years. The deal was, send in the form and you received three free listings in the column. The other stamp newspapers also offer this service. This was great until one reads the “small print”: in order to take advantage of Linn’s offer, the club must submit a roster with the form, otherwise the club must pay $10 per ad, the same as commercial bourses.

This was very upsetting to me. A little background information is needed here. Some years ago, there was a series of burglaries involving stamp collections in Ohio. Eventually, when the burglars were caught, among their “tools” was found a stamp club roster. Easy hit list — keep track of when the meetings and shows are being held, and you have an easy target. Clubs aware of this incident have been refusing to print rosters at all as a security issue. The fact that a newspaper dedicated to the hobby would even consider asking for rosters astonished me.

I immediately called Linn’s and talked to the people in the advertising department, sharing with them my concerns about this new policy, giving them the history behind my concerns. They were amazed that this could even be a problem and assured me that they would never share the rosters with anyone. Their plan is to do subscription recruiting.

Continued on page 7

An e-mail from Karen Weight to Linn’s

I handle the publicity listings for our club’s annual show. I was shocked to see that Linn’s now requires a club roster in exchange for its usual free three-week listing. The matter was discussed at a recent meeting and club members are very much opposed to your new policy. We’ve heard comments from other clubs that also object to letting out their club rosters.

It is becoming more and more difficult to afford rental fees for space for stamp shows. Clubs are hesitant to increase dealer fees as they are turning to the Internet as a less expensive means of doing business. On the other hand, local shows are important as an effective method to promote the hobby.

We, the Badger Stamp Club, usually take advantage of your free three-week listing and then buy an additional three weeks. Our advertising budget with Linn’s has now doubled.

Do you really intend to continue to strictly enforce your new policy?

Karen Weight for Badger Stamp Club

Linn’s response

There are 2 options to list the shows. 1 submit a club roster, this is for Linn’s use only. We DO NOT sell our lists to anyone, or will it be published in any of our publications. 2. Or pay to have the listing in. I’m sorry you are upset about the changes. We had some reorganization here at our company, and this is one of the many changes that was made, and since I am the one who enters the listings I have to inform all my customers of this change. Before the changes we could be flexible on some things, unfortunately that has changed also.

Surprisingly we have had a great response to this.

I’m sorry you are upset with this change. Unfortunately I have been informed this is how it will be done at this time.

I will discuss this with my manager and will contact you if it can be done another way.

Thanks!

Patty
Disturbing Policy continued from page 6

with the lists. I suggested that most clubs would be glad to do the mailing for them if they provided the material and postage to do so. That didn’t seem to be of interest.

Next I called editor Michael Laurence and shared my concerns with him. He hadn’t been aware of this new policy and was just as upset as I was. He said he would look into it and see what could be done. A few days later, I received a letter from Michael indicating, “We’ve now corrected the problem.” I was truly excited that something good had resulted from my efforts.

I did decide to confirm the new policy with my contact in the advertising department. She assured me that rosters were no longer required, but without one, it would cost $10 per listing. I pointed out to her that that was exactly what they said before, but her attitude was “this is the way it is.” She did tell me that they had received a lot of rosters already. I asked if any of them were from larger clubs. She said yes, but that there were a lot of names blacked out. I reminded her that their competition (Stamp News) is still offering free ads with no strings attached, and that in this economy, Linn’s should be thinking twice about alienating collectors with this policy. We ended the conversation agreeing to disagree.

I suggest that if your club decides to send a roster, you first get permission from each and every person on that roster before sending it. When I shared this story at my club, most members said they did not want their names sent to anyone.

A short time later, I received a call from the advertising department at Linn’s saying that they would not require the roster or the money from my club for the listing. I asked if this would apply to all clubs or if this was just for my club. She replied “just your club.” I told her that I thought this was still a very unfair policy. I guess I have won the battle, but lost the war.

Each club will have to make a decision — whether to send a roster, money, or choose to pass on advertising in Linn’s at all. I would really like feedback on how your club decides to handle this. I wonder if they would back down if they received calls from a lot of clubs complaining about this as I did. You might at least get the same offer we did. The phone number is 1-800-837-0194. Ask to speak with Patty Schmidt or Debra Woodward (Patty’s supervisor). I have spoken to both of them, and they are well aware of the whole story.

Please keep me posted: Denise Stotts, Club Operations Manager, P.O. Box 690042, Houston TX 77269-0042; stottsjd@swbell.net.

Chapter Newsletter Exchange

Vera Felts continues to add Chapters to the CAC Newsletter Exchange program. Participants are mailed a packet of newsletters from other Chapters every few months. They are read, and then mailed to the next Chapter on the list. It’s a great way of learning what other clubs are doing, and they will give you ideas to try with your own group.

Examples of the award-winning newsletters from the 2000 APS CAC Newsletter Competition also may be requested from Vera. Be sure to indicate that you are interested in this packet.

Contact; Vera Felts, Club Newsletter Exchange Manager, 1102 Mockingbird Lane, Carterville, IL 62918-1618; vfelts@siu.edu

Put These Publications in Your Library

Building Better Stamp Clubs, Everything you need to know to have a successful club, 110 pages — *$10.00

Tips for Promoting Youth Philately, A gold mine of ideas for working with kids and stamps, 24 pages — *$4.00

Running and Promoting Stamp Shows, A complete how-to guide, 50 pages — *$6.00

*APS Member and Chapter prices

Orders to U.S. addresses are shipped postpaid. PA residents must add 6% sales tax.

Send orders to:
APS, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803
Fax: 814-237-6128
Take a Field Trip to STAMPSHOW!

by Ken Martin, APS Director of Shows and Exhibitions

Looking for something fresh to spice up your club meetings? Why not consider a field trip? Opportunities exist for nearly every chapter. Many clubs have visited their local post office or mail-sorting facility. A few clubs have organized trips to the American Philatelic Society. With the number of new stamps the United States is issuing, a first-day ceremony is within driving distance of many clubs.

If you are one of over 100 chapters within a four to five hour drive of Atlantic City, our August 15–18 STAMPSHOW will provide another perfect opportunity. With a U.S. first-day ceremony (four Teddy Bear stamps), 150 dealers, 125 seminars, 50 participating societies and over 12,500 pages of exhibits, each club member could take advantage of a different opportunity. Special activities for youth and beginners as well as the Atlantic Ocean and boardwalk also provide great opportunities to introduce friends or family members to our hobby.

If your club organizes a field trip and can provide a list of participating individuals. The APS will prepare and mail badges so that your attendees can skip registration and walk right onto the show floor. The APS also will cover the parking costs for clubs that use a van or bus to bring ten or more people to the show and make arrangements in advance. Contact Ken Martin at 814-237-3803, ext. 218; or stampshow@stamps.org.

Newsletter Competition Spotlighted at STAMPSHOW, by Jane Fohn, Editor

Twenty-three eager editors are awaiting their medal levels in the 2001 APS CAC Newsletter Competition. Tony Brooks, Barth Healey, and Reuben Ramkissoon are already hard at work evaluating entries. Medal levels and written critiques will be sent to the editors as soon as the judging is completed.

The entries in the 2001 APS CAC Newsletter Competition will be on display with their awards at STAMPSHOW 2002, held August 15–18 in Atlantic City. As yet, it has not been decided whether to display them at the Chapter Booth or with the books, periodicals, and other items in the APS Literature Competition.

Every year APS Headquarters makes the certificates. This year, the CAC will have those certificates on hand to present to the editors at their official CAC meeting at STAMPSHOW 2002 on Saturday, August 17, at 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend this meeting, certificates will be mailed to you, as before, from APS after the show.

It is not too early for your chapter to plan to enter your chapter’s publication in the 2002 Newsletter Competition. Information and the entry form will appear in the Fall CACN. To receive information now, contact Jane Fohn, CAC Newsletter Competition Manager, 10325 Little Sugar Creek, Converse, TX 78109-2409; or jkfohn@myuc.net.
CAC Profile Raised at STAMPSHOW 2002
by Tom Fortunato, Chairman

APS Chapters will be highlighted at STAMPSHOW 2002 in several different ways. The show will be held August 15–18 in Atlantic City, NJ.

First off, you won’t have to go far to find the APS Affiliates and Chapters Table, prominently at the main entrance on the left just beyond the American Stamp Dealers Association booth. This is the first STAMPSHOW where members from both groups will man the table to inform visitors of their respective programs and services. It comes on the heels of a successful joint venture at the APS winter show in Riverside in February.

The booth will additionally promote local clubs trying to recruit members. Shows like this draw visitors from hundreds, and yes, thousands of miles away. However the bulk of attendees come from nearby cities and towns. No other show has the drawing power of STAMPSHOW. What better way to highlight your club than to have your representatives help man the booth!

Entrants in the 2001 CAC Newsletter Competition will be on display with their awards at STAMPSHOW. It’s being decided now whether to have them at the Chapter Booth or with the books, periodicals, and other items in the APS Literature Competition.

All Chapter representatives are invited to a joint Affiliates and Chapters luncheon on Friday afternoon. There’ll be great food and conversation for all. See details elsewhere in this issue of the CACN and RSVP!

The official Chapter Activities Committee meeting will take place on Saturday at 4 p.m. CAC Chairman Tom Fortunato will run the meeting, with other CAC officers in attendance. Several topics will be on the agenda before an open forum. The meeting will end with a certificate presentation ceremony for the CAC Newsletter Competition editors.

We would very much like to know if your Chapter will be represented at STAMPSHOW, either through booth assistants, luncheon attendees, or as newsletter award recipients. Please contact Tom Fortunato by writing to 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615-2022, or stamptmf@frontiernet.net.

Chapter Looking for Frames

The Cuy-Lor Stamp Club of Westlake, OH (APS Chapter 601), is looking for stamp frames to purchase. Any chapter interested in selling their frames should contact Ed Powell at 216-228-4153 or Starmoo72@aol.com.

You Are Invited! by Ken Martin

The Chapter Activities Committee (CAC) and the APS invite a Chapter representative of your choice to attend a luncheon sponsored by the Affiliates and Chapters. This joint gathering will bring together leaders from around the country during our nation’s biggest philatelic event, APS STAMPSHOW 2002!

It will be held on Friday, August 16, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the Ambassador Room of the Sheraton Hotel, which is attached to the Convention Center by an enclosed skywalk. On the menu is a bistro-turkey club, garden salad, and key lime cheesecake. The APS subsidizes this meal, making it only $10 per person. A guest of your selected representative may attend for $20.

We’d like you to participate! RSVP no later than June 30 by sending a check made payable to APS for the amount due along with your Chapter’s name and that of the person(s) attending, to: Chapter/Affiliate Luncheon, APS STAMPSHOW 2002, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803.
You Write — Your Concerns about Recruiting Challenges

by Tom Fortunato, Chairman

One of my responsibilities as CAC chairman is to review the yearly chapter application form your club sends to APS headquarters in July. That’s the time every group reapplies for chapter status, either for free with a minimum of 12 members and at least one-third of them being current APS members, or by paying dues.

Your comments truly reflect ongoing concerns and the common challenges we all face. A Michigan Chapter representative called for a “survival plan.” But we’d all rather thrive than just get by. It should be no surprise that the same issues keep being mentioned. Let’s review a couple of them.

Top of the list continues to be recruiting. Be honest. What has your club done to recruit? One chapter’s representative in Pennsylvania wrote, “Should we check with schools to get youth interested?” Certainly, but that’s working on the future. What about the present? Your group needs to be continually out in public “shaking the trees.” Don’t forget our senior citizens as a potential source for new members as well!

Ah, but others have written along the lines of a Chapter representative in Colorado who commented, “Our club is dwindling because our older members are dying off.” Let’s face the facts: Mother Nature takes her course whether we’re stamp collectors or not! So try to target younger members. Getting information about the club in your local paper is a start, but how many people still read them regularly? Many under-60 types are Web savvy. So find an ally who can reach them in cyberspace!

On to the falloff in meeting attendance. Here there seems to be two extremes. Some chapters write they need to spice up their programs. A few say they are too dependent on slide shows. Why are people not coming?

Spend one meeting simply discussing the following question: “What do I expect to get out of being a member of this stamp club?” We’d like to think that everyone will fall in line with the same answers, but truth be told, they won’t. So play to the majority, or get creative.

One club in upstate New York has two meetings a month. One is strictly a presentation on a philatelic subject, be it a slide show or live discussion. The other is an auction or swap session. Some people attend both, others just go to one. Need I tell you which gets a bigger draw? There continues to be much consternation about this schism, but it works in keeping everyone happy — at least part of the time! The bottom line is to cater to your membership. That sage advice applies to a three-member club as much as it does to the APS as a whole!

Another sore point is finding leadership within the membership. “Ten percent of the members do 90 percent of the work.” That quote came from several Chapters. Can you name any organization that doesn’t function that way? Sorry, we don’t live in a perfect world. Whatever you do, retain that 10 percent! Case closed.

An Ohio chapter representative writes, “We are experiencing a noticeable drop-off in attendance at our yearly stamp show.” Trust me, this is a trend at local shows right up through international-level exhibitions. Budgets for traditional shows continue to skyrocket. Venue rentals are through the roof, dealer table fees increase, hotel rooms are expensive, and even liability insurance adds to the bill. Some shows have cut back on the number of days of their event to reduce expenses. Others are finding lesser expensive alternatives, like schools and malls.

Continued on page 11
Recruiting Challenges continued from page 10

Fewer collectors, fewer dealers, fewer exhibitors, fewer exhibits. It’s a vicious cycle, and they’re all inter-related. Yes, there are fewer collectors out there, but this hobby is far from dead!

Is it all doom and gloom? No way. Again, technology is accelerating a paradigm shift in the way we approach the hobby. The Internet allows instant access to buyers and sellers around the world. Costs are contained to computer hardware and online access, which continue to fall in price and are accessible for free in most libraries. Even competitive exhibits are appearing online. Remember stamp approvals? They’re quickly going the way of the Edsel with eBay and the APS Internet Sales Unit.

Okay, time for me to get off the soapbox. These problems will remain until we ourselves find ways of overcoming them. The best any of us can do is coping the best way possible, share ideas and be open to all possibilities. Keep those comments coming!

Chapter Ads Now Accepted by Tom Fortunato, Chairman

As a service to all APS Chapters, The CAC Newsletter will begin accepting “classified” type advertisements from member clubs. This is your club’s way of reaching the other 700 or so APS Chapters.

We’re keeping the guidelines simple as follows:

1. APS Chapters in good standing will be allowed one ad every calendar year.
2. Up to 20 words are allowed in addition to your club’s name, contact name, address, phone number, and e-mail address (all of which should be sent).
3. CAC reserves the right to print these on a space-available basis.

There are 4 issues of the CAC Newsletter issued yearly, roughly released in September, December, March, and June. Send your ads to: CAC Ads, 42 Maynard St, Rochester, NY 14615-2022, stamptmf@frontiernet.net.

Receive CAC Updates by Email

CAC chairman Tom Fortunato maintains a distribution list of online Chapter representatives. These people receive e-mail updates regularly about the CAC, the CAC Newsletter, and various activities that are of importance to your club.

Note that these contacts are independent of the listing the APS maintains online. You or a club representative must write to Tom and ask to be added to his list. Simply e-mail him at stamptmf@frontiernet.net and include the Chapter’s name and number, contact person’s name, and e-mail address.

Get ready, set, grow at the American Philatelic Society’s Summer Seminar on Philately. This year’s seminar will be held Sunday, June 23 through Thursday, June 27, at the Atherton Hotel, 125 South Atherton Street, in downtown State College, just a few miles from APS Headquarters.

The seminar is unique in the hobby, offering resident instruction in specific philatelic areas through a combination of lectures and workshops. This year’s class choices include:

- Collecting First Day Covers, Alan Warren
- U.S. Postal History, 1792–2001, Anthony Wawrukiewicz
- Latin America, Bill Welch and Joseph Hahn
- How To Get Published, Rob Haeseler
- Computer Basics for Philatelists, Robert Marousky
- Stamp Technology, Wayne Youngblood

For more information, contact APS Education Department, P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803; call 814-237-3803 ext. 239 or register online at www.stamps.org/Education/edu_summerseminar.htm
Virtual Stamp Club Message Board URL Change, by Lloyd de Vries

The sale of the Delphi.com online service means the URL (“Universal Resource Locator” or Web address) of the Virtual Stamp Club’s message board and chat will change. The URL, www.virtualstampclub.com, for the VSC website will remain the same.

Rather than delphi.com the central part of the new URL is delphiforums.com. The direct route to the Virtual Stamp Club message board is http://forums.delphiforums.com/stamps.

During a transition period, both the old and new addresses will work, but at some point, the old delphi.com will no longer connect to the forums and message boards. Prospero, Delphi’s forum owner, has sold the domain name to Delphi Automotive Services, the parts arm of General Motors, while selling the online service to Blue Frogg Enterprises, a Salt Lake City-based company that also owns eHow.com and IdeaExchange.com.

The VSC urges members and visitors to bookmark its main website.

“The www.virtualstampclub.com URL will continue to work, no matter what,” said Lloyd A. de Vries, manager of the Virtual Stamp Club. “We own that, not Delphi or Prospero or Blue Frogg, and that will always connect to our message board, wherever we are.”

Except for those who have bookmarked the forums.delphi.com addresses, members of the Virtual Stamp Club should not notice any other change.

Originally founded in 1993 on the non-Internet GEnie online service as The Stamp Collecting Round Table, the Virtual Stamp Club has migrated over the years from GEnie to the Microsoft Network and then to Delphi in 1996.

The Virtual Stamp Club has established a reputation as a major source of philatelic news, information, and discussion on the Internet.

A chapter of the American Philatelic Society and the American First Day Cover Society — the first electronic chapter anywhere of a major stamp collecting organization — VCS offers membership to everyone, anywhere, and there are no dues.

For more information, contact Lloyd@virtualstampclub.com.

Earn Free Covers and Cards for Your Chapter

The APS will reward any chapter who provides volunteers to help at the August 15–18, 2002 Atlantic City Show. For each hour of volunteer service by your members the APS will give the chapter one free past STAMPSHOW cover or souvenir card. These may be used at the discretion of your chapter as door prizes, auction items, etc. For additional information contact Ken Martin at APS Headquarters e-mail stampshow@stamps.org.