

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 08  
AUGUST 2009

MAILED  
AUGUST 3, 2009

# Hobby Notes

- newsletter of the  
Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club



Fauquier County Courthouse  
in Old Town Warrenton

## Special points of interest:

- Door prizes donations are **always** needed (especially coin-related)
- Give us your ideas for future programs (our cupboard is bare)

## August 6<sup>th</sup> Program: John F. Kennedy Remembered

This month's program will be a showing of John F. Kennedy stamps and collateral material. Lee Morrison will share his collection, which includes stamps, covers and autographs of Kennedy and members of his cabinet and administration. The loss of a young President was a traumatic event for all Americans at the time --- it is one of those occurrences that everyone can remember what he or she was doing when the news arrived. It was also shocking world-wide, and stamps honoring JFK were issued by nearly nation. In fact, it would be interesting to know which (if any) countries did not issue a stamp for Kennedy. Lee's program is bound to stir memories of those days in all of us.

## Inside this issue:

Meeting information	2
About the Club	2
Upcoming programs	2
Noted in passing	3
Website spotlight	3
Upcoming Hobby Shows	3
Ray's Column	4
At Last Month's Meeting	5
From the Editor	5
Club Officers	6
This month's stamp	6

## Proposed Changes to Club Auction Rules

At the July meeting, Doug Harms noted that the monthly auction is a steady fund-raiser for the Club. He noted that under the current rules, the Club assesses 10% of each lot sold at the auction, up to a limit of \$1. The rules of the auction could be modified, Doug suggested, to raise or eliminate the limit so that the Club would increase its revenue from the sales. He was open to discuss whether to eliminate the limit altogether, or simply raise it. Without the \$1 limit, a 10% assessment on a \$20 sale, for example, would result in a \$2 fee to the Club, as opposed to the current \$1.

The brief discussion that followed included questions as to what the Club would do with the increased funds, and whether the increased fees would deter sellers from entering items in the auction.

We decided to discuss the matter further at the August meeting, after the issue could be published in the newsletter for all to consider.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

*Guests and new members are always welcome. Drop by and join us.*

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except for the December holiday dinner) at the SunTrust Bank in Warrenton. SunTrust is located at the intersection of Routes 17 & 29, in the Warrenton Center shopping center, near Rankin's Hardware (Enter the front doors

of the bank and go downstairs to the Meeting room).

The meetings start at 7:00 pm. We conduct our business, and then begin an informal 30-minute program, which alternates between coin and stamp coin topics. The program is followed by an auction of stamps, coins, and

other hobby items. We finish around 9:00 pm.

*SunTrust Bank*  
680 Warrenton Center  
Warrenton, VA 20187

## ABOUT THE CLUB

*"If you like stamps or coin, you're welcome to join"*

The Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club is based in Warrenton Virginia, but has members from all over the region, including Casanova, Manassas, Culpeper and Fredericksburg. Meetings are held each month, and the programs are broad enough to interest both stamp and coin collectors. Annual dues are \$12 for adults (although junior members pay no dues). Visitors and guests are always welcome. Prospective members shall be able to receive two consecutive editions of the newsletter before being dropped for non-payment of dues. The Club actively supports the Boy Scouts' merit badge programs, and has raised funds for local high school scholarships.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WS&CC:

September	2	TBA
October	1	TBA
November	5	TBA

### ***Noted in passing...***

The U.S. Postal Service continues to seek ways to conserve expenditures. There has been increasing discussion in the philatelic press about curtailed delivery days, closure of mail processing facilities, and even closing smaller post offices. Post offices are still perceived by many as the lifeblood of a community, and folks are reluctant to lose them without a fight. But times have changed, and most people simply do not use the mails the way they did in earlier times. Written correspondence has largely given way to email, Twitter or messages on Facebook and its cousins. Bills are often paid over the internet. The large sectional centers are processing mail well below capacity, and it is unlikely that volume will ever again reach the numbers that make those facilities economical. While processing costs can be reduced, a more difficult task is reducing costs of delivery, since daily mail routes consume the same gasoline and labor costs regardless of the amount of mail being delivered. The Post Office and its employees have been a large part of our nation's culture for generations, and we may be seeing the beginning of its end, at least in its present form. Stamps may soon become a relic. And one day coins and currency may suffer the same fate. I never thought I would see that day.

### **WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:**

The featured site this month is The Culpeper Auction Center, found at <http://www.culpeperauction.com/index.html>. Later this month, the Center will hold a coin and stamp auction (see below), with "gold & silver (U.S. & foreign), currency, fractional, Confederate, and numerous collectible coins and stamps." The complete catalogue with photographs will be posted soon. [This column does not usually feature commercial sites, but after members requested the web site address at last month's meeting, it was sent to those with email addresses on file - this is for the benefit of the others].

### **Upcoming Hobby Shows**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| August 9  | Coin and Stamp Auction, Culpeper Auction Center                      |
| August 15 | Winchester Stamp & Coin Gathering, Winchester, VA                    |
| August 22 | Richmond Stamp Fest, Richmond, VA                                    |
| Sept. 4-6 | BALPEX, 71 <sup>st</sup> annual philatelic exhibition, Baltimore, MD |
| Sept. 12  | Charlottesville Coin Show, Charlottesville, VA                       |

# RAYMOND'S COLUMN

## – NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

### The Ice House Cover

The envelope sent to the Jas. and Bancroft Ice House, Calcutta, East Indies bears the only known 1869 90¢ Lincoln stamp on cover - it has become known as "The Ice House Cover." The 90¢ high value was rarely used, and even though the stamp on this cover has been torn, repaired and replaced, its uniqueness gives it great value.

In 1967, 250 covers were stolen from the collection of J. David Baker of Indianapolis, Indiana, including this cover, and on the same night the collections of two other A.P.S. members in Indianapolis were also stolen. These thefts prompted the A.P.S. not to publish the complete addresses of members. This envelope reappeared in January 2006 when an elderly couple claimed to have found it while clearing out the contents of relatives' personal belongings, and they approached Charles Berg to sell it along with two other items of little value. Mr. Berg called James Lee, a specialist in classical U.S. philatelic material who called the Chicago police at Berg's request since he recognized the value as well as the legal status of the item. Lee called 911 but had some difficulty persuading the dispatcher of the significance of the cover since this person did not know what a cover meant, but perked up upon being told that it had a value of at least \$1 million. Soon a police contingent arrived at Berg's King Stamp store. Mr. Lee also called the A.P.S. insurance expert Dan Walker as well as Ephraim Daly, chair of the A.P.S. stamp theft commission. Because the cover was stolen in one state (Indiana) and recovered in another (Illinois), the interstate aspects of the case gave jurisdiction to the F.B.I. which took over the investigation, and maintained custody of The Ice House Cover as evidence.

Mr. J. David Baker had been paid in 1967 for his loss by the insurance company after the theft of the collection. When the bulk of his collection was recovered in 1974 (missing the Ice House cover), the insurance company declined to sell it back to the Mr. Baker, but rather sold it for a profit. Mr. Baker, however, repaid the insurance company the amount for the Ice House Cover, so in case it ever resurfaced, it would remain his possession. Mr. Baker has since died and at least six parties claimed ownership of the cover, resulting in numerous lawsuits. Mr. Baker's estate was awarded custody of the cover, after over two years of hearings. In June the cover sold for \$431,250 at auction. Although the cover did not realize \$1 million, its reputation continues to grow, as one of America's most storied covers.



## At Last Month's Meeting...

In July we discussed future programs, and Lee Morrison told of several collections that he has exhibited at Flint Hill shows in the past. The members decided that they would like to see his collection of Kennedy stamps, so that was scheduled for the August meeting. Doug Harms raised the issue of increasing the Club's revenue from the monthly auctions (see page 1), and we decided to discuss the matter more in August, after alerting all the members through the newsletter. In lieu of a formal program, we had another fine Show-and-Tell session, and were treated to a huge collection of Space stamps, arrowheads, Greek coins, United States airmail stamps, autographed baseballs, an official government UFO report and a Braille coin among others. We concluded with the auction.

### ***FROM THE EDITOR...***

#### What I Did This Summer

Last month my wife and I drove around Lake Superior, visiting about a dozen lighthouses along the way. Lake Superior alone has many hundreds of lighthouses. Although many are no longer in operation, and the remainder have long ago been automated, they still have a great attraction to me. I suppose my interest started in the early 1980's when I cruised the Caribbean in a small sailboat. While the structures were usually just an interesting landmark as we passed by, on occasion the beacons furnished a sense of safety. Lighthouses warned us of hidden hazards, and sighting them also confirmed our vessel's location in a world before GPS. This was particularly true during stormy weather, when celestial navigation is impossible. The story of lighthouses is a fascinating part of our nation's history, its waterways and commerce. The courage of the lighthouse keepers in rescuing wrecked ships has filled many books. While most people think of U.S. lighthouses as being located along the ocean coasts, many more were built on the shores of the Great Lakes.

I have collected lighthouses on stamps for many years, I have many picture postcards of lighthouses and our house has way too many prints of lighthouses on the walls. My wife shares little of my fascination with lighthouses, so my longtime desire to tour lighthouses sat dormant for years. But this year we compromised, and we visited lighthouses, as well as state parks and national parks in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ontario. We went to Sleeping Bear Dunes on the west coast of Michigan. Lights. Then on to the Upper Peninsula. It has a fine lighthouse and Shipwreck Museum (including much information on the Edmund Fitzgerald), but we had seen that before, so we went to Copper Harbor. More lights. Next the Apostle Islands where we took a lighthouse cruise. We skipped Voyageurs' National Park because the drive was so long, and instead took a ferry from Grand Portage to Isle Royale. Along the way we stopped at lighthouses at Split Rock and Two Harbors. Running out of time, we hurried along the very beautiful northern shore in Canada, and by the time we arrived home, we had put over 3900 miles on the car. Maybe I will match my lighthouse photographs with U.S. stamps that show the same lights. What fun.

## Current Officers

### WARRENTON STAMP AND COIN CLUB

APS #182214  
ANA #C-173784

Address correspondence to:

WSCC  
c/o Gerry Hoffman  
6211 Old Glory Lane  
Rixeyville, VA 22737-1958

President:

Raymond Maguire 540-428-7023  
ranganoa@hotmail.com

Vice-President:

Tony Tripi 540-347-9212  
tripi@earthlink.net

Secr./Treasurer:

Gerry Hoffman 540-937-2201  
gahajaja@erols.com

Newsletter Editor:

Brian C. Saxe 540-349-0940  
bcsaxe@yahoo.com  
5329 Forrest Court  
Warrenton, VA 20187-4503

## *This month's featured stamp*

This month's commemorative stamps honor Gulf Coast lighthouses. On July 23, 2009, in Biloxi, Mississippi, the Postal Service issued 44¢, Gulf Coast Lighthouses commemorative stamps, designed by Howard E. Paine of Delaplane, Virginia.

The U.S.P.S. continues its series of *Lighthouses* stamps by Artist Howard Koslow of Toms River, New Jersey, with the 2009 issuance of five Gulf Coast Lighthouses stamps: Matagorda Island, Texas, Sabine Pass, Louisiana, Biloxi, Mississippi, Sand Island, Alabama, and Fort Jefferson, Florida.

Koslow also painted the five Pacific Lighthouses stamps 2007; Southeastern Lighthouses stamps in 2003; the Great Lakes Lighthouses stamps in 1995; and the five stamps in the 1990 Lighthouses booklet.

