

# Stamping Around

**Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club**

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 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)



#891-076252



CHAPTER MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 36, Number 9

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

September 2023

## Adhesive Banding & Self-Destruction

By Peter Elias

Yup, some of the items that I study & collect are self-destructing from before I even buy them!

Here are two of the items I frequently buy and study; the top one is a "FOREVER" USPS Eagle design from roll labels at the USPS self-service kiosk at the Plano MPO, bought on July 12, 2023. The 2nd one is from the Hedgcoxe Rd PO in Plano and dates back to April 23, 2012. They are both Scott-listed in the CVP section. These were scanned on my Epson Workforce scanner:



Notice the gray "banding" running across both stamps?

Below is another look at the same stamps, this time photographed against a light table (the black marks are on the backing paper and used for aligning the cutter):

*Black squares added for security*



Now it looks even worse! The "banding" is caused by the self-adhesive gum as it is starting to leach through the stamp paper. It isn't quite as bad on the FOREVER stamp (since it is more current), but looks REALLY bad (almost translucent), on the older matrix barcode stamp. While most regular self-adhesive postage stamps have a solid layer of self-adhesive gum, these roll labels require "banding", as otherwise the

adhesive would end up "gunking" up the guillotine blades that are used to cut each stamp off the roll as it is printed.

In the picture to the right, I've peeled the backing paper away so you can see what that "banding" looks like.

So with "regular" postage stamps, so far I have not seen too much "translucence", as the self-adhesive gum is fully applied, but as we've all seen from the US 1974 Christmas stamp (Scott #1552), the self-adhesive gum has migrated through the stamp paper (giving it a mottled appearance), turning it a bit translucent and the gum is mostly dried out.

Sure, some people say you can use various chemicals or solvents to remove the self-adhesive gum before it causes damage, but that is creating unnecessary expense (and potential health issues), and is useless if "translucence" has already occurred!

So the "FOREVER" Eagle stamp to the left will probably not last FOREVER ... But then I don't think that the USPS really intended to have them last forever either (and not as collectible items either), and that they should be used as postage quickly...

In any case, self-adhesive gum is just a bad idea for philatelic longevity (although perhaps more convenient for germophobic postal consumers --> "gosh no more licking stamps"! ). And then there's the "thermal" printing issue on these CVP stamps, which is also self-destructive, but that's another article for another day!



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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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### 2023 - 2024 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Ken Aldridge  
First Vice-President – Rick Howell  
Second Vice-President – Stanley Christmas  
Secretary – Janet Moyer  
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

#### Board of Directors (voting):

Peter Elias      Ralph Poore      Ken Willis  
Immediate Past President: Rich Hildebrandt

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 only \$12 per year (which includes an emailed or online color newsletter, or \$22 for mailed black & white 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 820784  
N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784

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



"Editor At Work"  
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

When sending in articles in electronic format, please keep fonts simple by using basic Arial font (which is what you are reading now). I will reformat as needed for the newsletter.

If enclosing photos with your articles, please state the name of the photographer for photo credits.

## EXPO Mini-Exhibits Needed!

By Peter Elias

For the planned "mini-exhibits" at this year's EXPO, there are 64 pages available across 4 frames. So far I have received applications for 8 pages worth (4x 1-page & 1x 4-page) from 2 members, plus several from me. While I can probably easily fill the remaining space with more of my own mini-exhibits (and possible an "eye-candy" one-frame exhibit), I would prefer that a few more people enter mini-exhibits. Remember, these don't have to be newly created and can be from previous EXPO entries.

Remember, we would want to have "interesting" philatelic material that catches the eye of visitors as they are entering or leaving (they'll be positioned between the doors and the registration table in the entry area. Entry forms were in the July issue, or I can email you one.

If you've had these at previous EXPO's, feel free to resubmit them! Best of all: no entry fee, but I need entry forms submitted before mid-October and the exhibits put up on November 9 by you (or in my hands before then).

## Coming Attractions

### 2023

#### **AUG. 22 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: *Controlled Mail* by Ken Willis

#### **AUG. 25 & 26 TSDA Bourse**

Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)

#### **SEP. 6 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: Semi-Annual Auction

#### **SEP. 9 MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg ??**

Spring Creek BBQ, 3608 S. Cooper St., Arlington

#### **SEP. 15 - 17 Greater Houston Stamp Show**

#### **SEP. 20 MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

#### **SEP. 26 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: Club Auction

#### **OCT. 4 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: Club Picnic at the Bob Duncan Center

#### **OCT. 7 MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg**

David's BBQ, 2224 W Park Row Dr, Pantego, TX 11 AM

#### **OCT. 13-14 Dallas Fall Postcard Show**

Hilton Garden Inn, Bethany @ US75, Allen (admission)

#### **OCT. 18 MCSC—EULESS Meeting**



## Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

### Applications Received:

n/a

### New Members:

n/a

### Reinstatements:

n/a

### Resignations:

n/a

### Membership Summary – August 16, 2023

Membership as of July 19, 2023	97
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	0
Did Not Renew for 2023	( 0 )
Resignations	( 0 )
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of August 16, 2023	97

**[Editor note: Janet informed me that her spreadsheet shows 97 members, not 96 as reported last month, so I've corrected the July 19 number to 97).**

## The Bus To Brandenburg Gate

By Kenneth Wills



I am not the first to write about the Brandenburg Gate, on the boundary between the Western and Eastern sectors of Berlin, but I have an unusual perspective on it.

In 1960, I fulfilled the dream I had since I was 4 years old, to be a bus driver. In fact I was the sole driver of the 1947 Leyland PS1 bought by the Oxford and Cambridge Finnmark Expedition to travel to the far north of Europe for ornithological research (1).



Photo Credits  
for this article:  
Kenneth Wills



We extended our itinerary to include Moscow! And on the return leg of this 7000 mile journey, I drove this bus through the Brandenburg Gate, just one year before it was closed as part of the infamous Berlin Wall.

Even today it is not possible to drive through the Brandenburg Gate, as it is open to pedestrians only.

(1) *Studies of phylogeny, phylogeography, genomics, distribution, diversity, ecology, and conservation of birds.*

### Editor's Notes:

The stamp shown is a German ATM stamp issued couple of years ago as part of 2 alternating stamps (the other being the Post Office Tower in Bonn), pre-printed in color on roll-stock. It was first released on October 24, 2008 and sold through "Sielaff" ATM stamp kiosks> The Michel Automatenmarken Katalog has it as #6; and the post office tower design is #7. Every 5<sup>th</sup> stamp has a "counting number" on the back. These have "lick-n-stick" (aka "moisture activated") gum, and the machine simply prints the denomination (\*0,02 in this case) when buying these. When Ken contacted me regarding this article, I found the stamp in one of my stock-books.

## Ohms

By Peter Elias



Once upon a time, back in the mid/late 1970's, I had an interest in electronics. I remember one time, I found an old black & white "tube" TV set (about 12" diagonal) behind a store. Call it early "dumpster diving", something that stamp collectors are well too aware of....

This old TV with a metal cabinet was heavy, so I couldn't really carry it home. On the other hand, I was there on my bicycle, which had a big dual wire basket over the back wheel, so I was able to put the TV on that and basically push the bike home for a mile.

I lugged the TV home up to my room and plugged it in (and hoping that it would cause a short or fire...). It actually worked! The CRT screen was kind of "washed out", but images were basically viewable, and all I had was a "rabbit ears" antenna to work with, so I probably got 5 - 8 channels on VHF & UHF channels. It kind of allowed me to watch some shows that my parents probably didn't want me to watch (like "Police Woman" and "Starsky & Hutch"...).

Later, around the high school days (1976 - 1979), the boy scouts had a program called "Explorer Posts", and in our town, they had one for Electronics. Once a week in the early evening, a couple of students met at a building at Dow Chemical, where someone was giving general programs on electronics, whether that's the newfangled "semi-conductor" chips, such as found in TI calculators (ahh, my first TI-55 came with red LED characters...). We also found out how to figure out how many "Ohms" (resistance) were on a resistor on a printed circuit board, such as shown on USA #1501 above, which highlights progress in electronics and showed such a board. Basically the different color bands on a resistor will tell you the Ohms resistance; and no, I don't remember what the values are now; no photos of me attending either, but looking at this stamp brought back that memory!

The Boy Scouts "Exploring" program goes back to the 1930's; there's more to read about that subject at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exploring\\_\(Learning\\_for\\_Life\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exploring_(Learning_for_Life))

## MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2023

Prepared by Madeleine Myers & Dave Stockbridge

### Opening:

- Dave Stockbridge opened the meeting at 6:50 PM and welcomed the group.

### Attendance:

- 10 members and 1 guest were attended.
- The guest Kim Phipps had brought an accumulation of mint US sheets and stamps to sell.

### Show & Tell & Announcements:

- An auction will be held at the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and members may turn in items, up to 10 from each member, before September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- We have APS sales books & Club sales books with stamps for sale.
- Also have retired OK and club books with sales at 50% of net.
- Jim case mentioned that he needs items for the club "Mystery Box" that will be auctioned off at the November EXPO.

### Program:

- Gary McNamee presented a program entitled "Pitcairn Island: From the Bounty to British Overseas Territory". Gary gave the history of the island and its settlement. The mutineers on the British ship Bounty settled on Pitcairn Island. Several were later killed. The island was an ideal location to hide out because it was mis-located on the maps of the time. In recent time the population of the island has declined. The island is now a British Overseas Territory.

### Gift Certificates:

- Certificates we awarded to Madeleine Myers, Anne McFarland and Dave Stockbridge.

### Closing:

- The next meeting will be Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The program will be brought by Ken Will and entitled "Controlled Mail". Meet and eat prior to the meeting will be at Palio's Pizza Café at 5 PM.



## MCSC Annual Picnic!

By Judy Christmas

The Club's Annual Picnic will be held on the patio of the Bob Duncan Community Center prior to the October 4, 2023 meeting in Arlington.

The Club will provide hot dogs, drinks and utensils. For those who will be attending we ask that you bring a covered dish. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the Arlington, Eules and Granbury September meetings. If you were not able to attend any of these meetings but would like to attend, just send me an e-mail message at [judy66@swbell.net](mailto:judy66@swbell.net) or give me a call at (817) 996-6112. Some dishes that have been brought in the past are salads (tossed, Jell-O, fruit), beans, casserole dishes of all kinds, fruit plates, deviled eggs (which always go fast so make plenty) chips & dip and all sorts of desserts. This event has been such a big success in

## MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2023

By Janet Moyer

### Call-To-Order:

- President Ken Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### President's Announcements:

- President Ken Aldridge made 2 announcements:
  - The September meeting is the auction. Skip had 9 lots and will take others until the Aug.16<sup>th</sup> meeting at Eules. You may email sheets with the items on them to him until then.
  - The PicRights issue has been resolved.

### Announcements:

- Janet Klug, past APS President and judge for our EXPO in 2016, passed away.
- TSDA event in Richardson will be on August 25 & 26.
- The Eules meeting will be held August 16. The Meet & Eat is at Mexican Inn.
- Ralph Poore announced the EXPO planning meeting on August 12, at Dave's BBQ in Pantego, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. He reminded people to sign the EXPM volunteer sheet.

### Reports:

- Judy Christmas gave the treasurer's report.
- Janet Moyer gave the secretary's report. There are 97 members with 30 being sponsorship members.
- Peter Elias reported he is working on the newsletter.
- Peter also announced that he is preparing the 1-page & 4-page exhibits and needs more! If you have any exhibits you'd like to display, contact Peter Elias.
- Dave Stockbridge said the Club sales are steady.

### Show and Tell:

- Ralph showed 4 cover cards. One was a Christmas Seal with a Christmas postal mark. Very rare.
- Peter did a "read & tell". A letter from Ohio from a boy who was very happy with the stamps he received from Peter. He also showed stamps wrapped completely in cellophane and an envelope that was received with only his name and the ZIP+4+2.

### Door Prize Drawing:

- 4 gift certificates were issued.

### Program

- The program by Rich Howell was 2 YouTube videos by Graham Blek called "Exploring Stamps". One was on the Zeppelin stamps and the other was about the Antarctic Territory. Both were very well done and interesting.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

years past, so please come and join us. It is a good time for members to visit with each other.

We will begin gathering around 5:00 PM with eating to begin at 5:30 PM. If you have any questions, please contact either Judy Christmas at (817) 996-6112 or David Stockbridge at (817) 573-7168.

## Don't Sell An Item for \$1

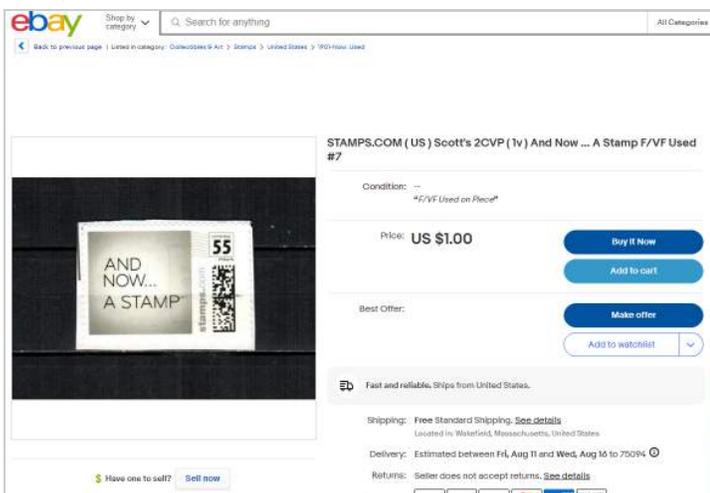
By Peter Elias

## Will ZIP+4+2 Get It There?

By Peter Elias

Sometimes I honestly wonder “what are they thinking” when trying to price their item for sale on eBay. Take for example the item below, which I saw on August 7 on eBay. The same seller had multiple similar USA 2CVP items for sale. The one shown is one of the last PhotoStamp designs from stamps.com in June 2020. This particular one, which was part of a sheet of 20, with 5 different designs, is actually one of my favorite’s due to the simple message.

The above cropped screenshot shows the used stamp. The price is just \$1 AND includes free shipping (only within the USA).



Now, if I were to sell this item, \$1 would be a fair price, as one doesn't see it postally used that often (amazing how the 1st class rate has gone up from 55¢ to 66¢ in just 2 years!).

So, a decent price for the buyer. But is there anything in it for the seller? While this seller, with almost 15,000 feedback is probably some sort of power seller (and would probably have an eBay “store”), and they may have better selling terms than what eBay extends to me; but if I were to sell this, what you see to the below, would be my eBay transaction.

eBay charges various fees, predominantly a “fixed selling fee” for every transaction (which might be multiple items, but only one “fixed selling fee”), and a “variable selling fee”, which is (for most sellers) 13% of the entire transaction amount. In the example below, if the buyer is from a state that requires sales tax, they add the 13% fee to the sales tax as well, so the result would be **-\$0.06** ...

So at this point, I'd already be in the hole by 6¢. But wait, there's more (as they say...)! The above just represents the eBay transaction. What else is there? The shipping cost represent the “eBay Standard Envelope”, which is the meter rate for 1st class and you can buy that from eBay. It prints as a fairly large label and you'd have to use a #10 (not #6¾) envelope to get it to fit. So, that then means you need a #10 envelope (probably 2¢ if you buy them in bulk) and the cost of a sheet of paper (1¢ + glue stick) or a large (half-sheet size) self-adhesive label (probably 10¢+).

In my case, I always to go the post office to mail something (I just don't trust the mailbox outside...), that adds about \$2 in gas round-trip. My time for all this, including the 25 minute drive is of course at no charge. So I ask you: is it worth it?

Selling Price	\$ 1.00
eBay fixed selling fee	\$ (0.30)
eBay variable selling fee	\$ (0.13)
shipping cost	\$ (0.63)
<b>NET RESULT</b>	<b>\$ (0.06)</b>

At a recent Eules club meeting, one of the discussions was about ZIP+4+2. Yes, we all know about ZIP+4® (which is a registered trademark of the USPS), which is more difficult for most of us to remember than just our “ZIP” code.

While the ZIP code covers a city or even part of a city, it is just a general way to identify where a mail piece should end up. ZIP+4 was introduced as a way of sorting mail a little more specifically, but any given 5-digit ZIP code can easily have more than 9999 delivery points, so that does not specifically identify your particular address. For example, on the street I live on, most house on my side of the street of the same ZIP+4 and the carrier (or perhaps USPS automation) will sort it according to the street number. Remember that the USPS carrier does NOT deliver to successive street numbers, so as mail is delivered, it is to (for example) 2, 4 and 6 on Elm Street, then 5, 3 and 1 Elm Street as the carrier goes the other way on that street (since they use a right-hand drive vehicle). They have their mail in their trays ready to be delivered in that fashion, otherwise they'd be zigzagging across the street, which might work for a carrier delivering while walking, but obviously isn't very self-sufficient.

So, while ZIP or ZIP+4 help in general sorting of mail, it doesn't always uniquely identify any address, but technically, but ZIP+4+2 definitely gets much closer. A PO Box will have a ZIP+4+2, and in that case, it does uniquely identify that PO Box, but for street addresses, it may not (think about a high-rise apartment building with hundreds of apartments).

But we were discussing whether simply addressing an envelope to “Name” and ZIP+4+2 will get it there (without mentioning a street address or city & state)? So, Ken Wills had sent me an envelope to my PO Box, address simply with Peter Elias on one line, and “ZIP 75094-0427-27” on the 2nd line. He mailed it on July 27 and I received it on July 31, so 4 days to get from Grapevine (near DFW Airport) to the Plano post office (about 35 miles).

The front of the envelope did NOT have the gray inkjet “Postnet” codes at the bottom, but did have the fluorescent yellow codes on the back.



In turn, Ken requested that I sent him an envelope, addressed only to “Wills” and his “ZIP #####-####-##”. At the time of writing this, August 8, Ken stated that my envelope had NOT yet arrived; and I had mailed it roughly around the same time he mailed his envelope. It has also not been returned to me as “undeliverable”; so where is it?

## How Not To Store Stamps, Part ??

By Peter Elias

There are so many ways NOT to store stamps, and it's unfortunate when one finds them in a donation many years later.

In a recent contribution from Byron Sandfield, I found the following interesting "subjects":



First up: a small bundle of narrow & flexible plastic sleeves. Each had 2 stamps from Indonesia in it, probably about 8 or 10 of the sleeves, which were all stapled together at the end (see scan above). The stamps were all mint, inexpensive stamps. Because of the size of some of the stamps, they ended up being overlapped and due to time & moisture, got stuck to themselves. Luckily the plastic sleeves themselves didn't seem to do any harm to the stamps, but never-the-less, not an ideal solution for storage.

And then there were these two stamps: "US WAR SAVINGS" stamps, and they are Scott #WS1 from 1942 and in mint condition, so to speak.



The stamps are tightly wrapped in some sort of crinkly cellophane (which is yellowing), and on one end is wrapped similar to what you would do with a loaf of bread, twisted tight and wrapped with a string.

At first, I thought that it was just regular string that was used, but turns out that it is



actually a very thin piece of wire!

As usual, the question is "why"? Why would someone even remotely think that this is a proper way to store a stamp? Stay tuned for the next episode of "improper stamp collecting techniques"....!



## President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

The September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting program in Arlington will be our semi-annual auction. It's not too late to send Skip an email with a description of your item(s) if you have not turned them in yet. Remember, we do not put out any non-auction items to sell at this meeting.

The October meeting in Arlington will be our annual picnic. More on this will be coming out soon.

It appears our club will have several openings coming up. A couple of people have advised me they want to pass on the duties to other members. Think about helping the Club and give me a call or email if you have any questions or interest.

EXPO is coming soon! We're always in need of more volunteers. Be sure to see Janet or email her to see what the areas are where people are still needed.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> season of Fargo (on Hulu) is about a valuable stamp. I've only seen the 1st two segments but I'm curious as to who this turns out to be.

Remember, the days are getting shorter...less sun, I think..

## Thank You

By Peter Elias



Byron Sandfield of Park Cities Stamps contributed 2 more boxes of stamps, covers & albums to the club, which I picked up at his office on August 1 and gave to Skip the next day at the Arlington meeting.

On August 10, Byron called me and he had a few more items. It was an entire trunk load full this time, 8 full boxes (see below).

There were 2 smaller boxes that had lots of older glassines, each containing many of the same US stamp (and luckily numbered by Scott #).



There was a fairly full (through late 1970's or 1980's) album of United Nations, another album with some US stamps, the usual "Modern Stamps" albums, a small amount of loose stamps and a ton of first day covers and "special" covers from companies like the Franklin Mint. I consolidated 1 boxes worth of material into the other boxes and handed the remaining 7 boxes to Skip at the Eules meeting.

## Harold Warp's Pioneer Village

By Ken Aldridge

This summer we visited this museum pioneer village in Minden, Nebraska. It was organized mostly in the mid-50's by Harold Warp, owner of Warp's Plastic Company, Chicago, Ill. Harold was born and grew up near Minden. The picture of me in front of the entrance didn't turn out but the one of me on top of the pole trying to start the car turned out okay! This museum is full of early wagons, electric and steam cars, household items and furnishings, plus, etc, etc...



Also shown was a 1961 Amphicar, the only amphibious automobile built for private use. It was designed by Hans Trippel in Germany in 1961. It has a 4 cylinder Triumph motor mounted in the rear. Two propellers for water cruising are mounted under the back seat driven by a spiral gear. The rear view photo below shows the hidden propellers via mirrors on the floor. Top speed on land is 68 mph, on water 6½ knots (about 7½ mph). An Amphicar crossed the English Channel from France to England in 1962. It was made by Deutsche Industrie Werke of Berlin. The car displayed was purchased by Warp and added to his museum in 1967.

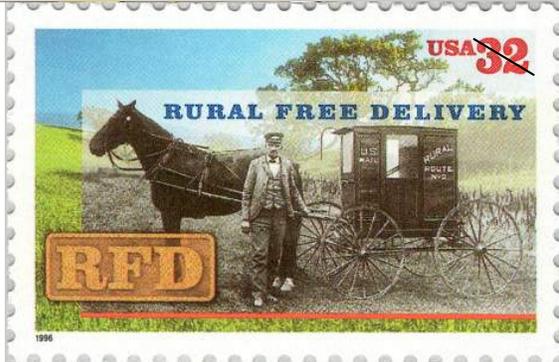


Photo credits on this page:  
Ken Aldridge



Shown to the left is a horse-drawn Rural Mail Carrier carriage. This vehicle was one of many manufactured by 13 different companies listed on the Smithsonian National Postal Museum [website](#).

A similar rural mail carrier carriage is shown on USA #3090 from 1996.



USA #3090 from 1996

Scanned image from the collection of Peter Elias



[Editor's Note: According to Wikipedia, 3,878 Amphicars were built from 1961-1968. More info can be found at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amphicar>. And while I did search, I couldn't find any stamps featuring Amphicars]

# 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

## 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

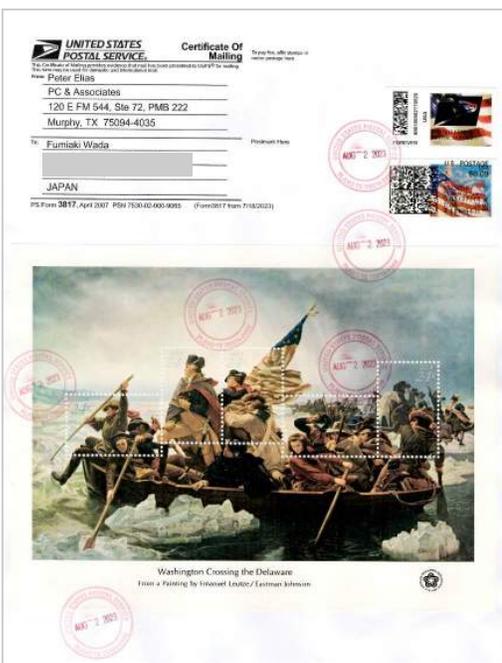
## Wanted

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

## Use It As Postage

By Peter Elias

Shown below is a copy of USA Scott#1688, 1 of 4 souvenir sheets issued during the USA Bicentennial in 1976, and it pays a part (\$1.20) of the \$1.95 fee for USPS Form 3817 (aka: “Certificate of Mailing”).



Now why would I do that? Look to the right. That's the backside of that (now formerly) mint sheet, with heavy hinge remnants and even a thin. So not exactly a nice “collectible” souvenir sheet by itself, but perfect as postage, and it even makes for a nice “postal history” (usage) item! And I paid less than face value for it!

## For Sale

I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is [www.kenwills.net](http://www.kenwills.net) Contact me at [wills@airmail.net](mailto:wills@airmail.net). Happy hunting! 3/19

**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 \$ 7.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 11/21

**MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES!** Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, 25% and LESS of catalog values. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: [jstrubel-boy@aol.com](mailto:jstrubel-boy@aol.com) 12/14

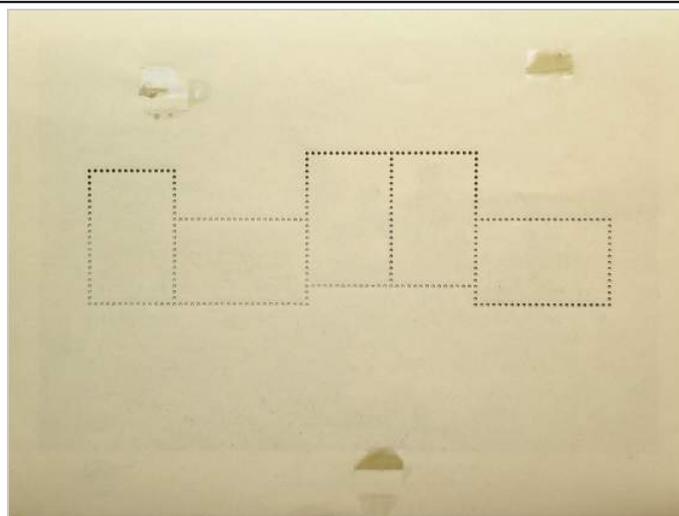
I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

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[jonathan@topperstamps.com](mailto:jonathan@topperstamps.com)  
[www.topperstamps.com](http://www.topperstamps.com)



## EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2023

By Janet Moyer

### Call-To-Order:

- Chairman Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:47 AM.

### In attendance:

Ralph Poore	Stanley Christmas
Judy Christmas	Janet Moyer
Patty Poore	Skip Ely
Alliene Franklin	Kathryn Storey
Ken Aldridge	Bob Weidman
Tom Cunningham	

- The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as posted in newsletter.

### Committee Reports:

- Chairman - Ralph Poore said he was working on the banner for the club.
  - He also asked to check the calendar for a December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to: Wrap up this year and start on next year's EXPO.
- Deputy Chair - Stanley Christmas had nothing to share.
- Awards - Alliene Franklin asked for someone to volunteer to handle the awards next year (2024).
- Beginning Collectors - Skip Ely is going through donations looking for items in the mix-pick, silent auction, club auctions and beginning collectors. Peter just picked up 7 more boxes from Byron Sandfield.
- Bourse - Tom Cunningham said he has 24 dealers and is selecting the 25<sup>th</sup> soon. Two of the dealers are new to our show.
- Cachet - Ken Aldridge has designed a good cachet and the idea will be used to on the cover and on envelopes to be put in every program.
- Chance Board - Patty Poore is working on the Chance Board. She has come up with an idea for the sign and a new approach to the board.
- Exhibits - Peter Elias still would like some people to help fill the mini-exhibits that will be by the front doors.
- Finance - Judy Christmas will send everyone a copy of the corrected budget. We are in good shape with the dealer's payments almost complete.
- Lunches - will be ordered before the EXPO. The dealers should order by Nov 6 (email) and club members can order by the November 1 (email or in person) meeting. This will enable an earlier order to Jason's Deli.
- MixPick - Bob Weidman needs stamps - bring them to the meeting. He wants to know what category of stamps would be best to order if he needs to buy any.
- Program - Stanley has the program formed. He needs the dealer's list and the Exhibit list from Peter.
- Silent Auction items are needed.
- Raffle - Two prizes will be raffled: a Penny Black and a US Airmail Scott# C3.
- Security - Ken Aldridge is checking with the Grapevine Police for night security.
- Mail-out - Stanley will be mailing about 350 letters and sending 600 emails.
- Silent Auction - Skip announced the group decided to have minimum bids on some items this year. If the minimum bid is not reached, the item will be given back to the donor.
- Snacks - Dave Stockbridge and Ken Aldridge will take care

of the snacks. They will make sure drinks for the lunches are set back to be available.

- Transportation - Evan Islam will be doing transportation again and are aware it will be lighter than before due to only needing two A-frames. [Editor: 2 A-frames = 4 frames]

### Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be October 7, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Dave's Barbecue.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 PM.

## MCSC Eulless Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023

By Janet Moyer

### Call-To-Order:

- Vice President Stanley Christmas called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

### In attendance were:

Stanley Christmas	Judy Christmas	Peter Elias
Skip Ely	Janet Moyer	Sai Madhavapeddi
Tom Turner	Ken Wills	

- One guest, Bruce Davis, was also in attendance.

### Committee Reports:

- Vice President - Stanley Christmas shared that the Pic-Rights situation has been settled.
- Treasurer - Judy Christmas reported that the tables for EXPO are mostly paid for.
- Secretary - Janet Moyer reported that the previous minutes were posted in the newsletter.
- Skip Ely reported there were no sales from the sales books.
- Mail-out - Stanley will be mailing about 325 letters and sending 600 emails for EXPO.
- Newsletter Editor - Peter Elias has the September newsletter ready but for a last few items.
- Publicity - Ken Wills showed some new ideas for publicity for the EXPO.

### Show and Tell:

- Stanley showed an insert from the World's Fair in Chicago, 1933 and Adams Pick-up information from 1928-1929.
- Sai shared some Australian Stamps.
- Tom Turner showed a route that a letter took from Bilbao Heights (Canal Zone) in 1916.
- Ken Wills showed some stamps that had been cancelled by scribbling on them and a list of stamp dealers in Melbourne (2001) that was three pages long!
- Peter Elias shared:
  - A package that had a label put on top of a label.
  - A letter sent from Ken Wills to him with only his name and a ZIP+4+2 on it!
  - A registered letter from Slovakia that was a bit moldy.
  - Certificate of Mailing info
  - A letter from Germany that had a USPS tracking label.
- Skip Ely showed some yellow and ratty glassine envelopes that had hundreds of the USA same stamps in them. He will transfer them to clear plastic baggies.
- A super discussion was had!

### Door Prize drawing:

- Skip and Peter were awarded door prize certificates.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.
- The next meeting will be September 20, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

## EXPO Lunch Orders

If you are wanting a box lunch from Jason Deli, I will need your order before the Expo begins. The cost for a Box Lunch has gone up this year a dollar to \$10.00. Your lunch will include a sandwich, chips, napkin, and a drink. Please use a separate form for EACH lunch ordered and a SEPARATE sheet for each day.

Please fill out the forms below (one for each day) and email them to me at ([judy66@swbell.net](mailto:judy66@swbell.net)) or if you would like to pay with your order send the order form(s) to Judy Christmas, 6628 Roaring Springs Drive, North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5556 along with your payment. I will circulate on Thursday during set up to collect the money for those who want to pay for their lunches at that time.

Thank you so much! We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Sincerely,

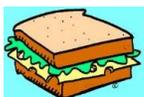
Judy Christmas

MCSC Treasurer

Please fill out separate form for each day a lunch is wanted

### FRIDAY order (November 10)

Circle each choice.



#### SANDWICH

Please circle your choice of meat:

Ham	150/80 cal
Tuna Salad with Eggs	380/190 cal
Roasted Turkey Breast	150/80 cal
Roast Beef	210/110 cal

Please circle your choice of bread:

Multigrain Wheat	210/100 cal
Country White	240/120 cal
All-butter Croissant	270/140 cal
Gluten-free	170/90 cal

Please circle your choice of Cheese:

Provolone	150/70 cal
Cheddar	180/90 cal
Swiss	160/80 cal
American	140/70 cal

#### DRINK

Please circle your choice of drink:

Water	Coke	Coke Diet
Sprite	Dr. Pepper	Diet Dr. Pepper

**Sandwich + Chips, Drink - \$10.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out separate form for each day  
that a lunch is wanted

### SATURDAY order (November 11)

Circle each choice.



#### SANDWICH

Please circle your choice of meat:

Ham	150/80 cal
Tuna Salad with Eggs	380/190 cal
Roasted Turkey Breast	150/80 cal
Roast Beef	210/110 cal

Please circle your choice of bread:

Multigrain Wheat	210/100 cal
Country White	240/120 cal
All-butter Croissant	270/140 cal
Gluten-free	170/90 cal

Please circle your choice of Cheese:

Provolone	150/70 cal
Cheddar	180/90 cal
Swiss	160/80 cal
American	140/70 cal

#### DRINK

Please circle your choice of drink:

Water	Coke	Coke Diet
Sprite	Dr. Pepper	Diet Dr. Pepper

**Sandwich + Chips, Drink - \$10.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out separate form for each day  
that a lunch is wanted

## R.I.P. Free Webs.com Philatelic Websites

By Peter Elias

For many years (going to back up to 2 decades, since 2003), I've had various philatelic websites at the 12 websites below:

- St. Vincent stamps: <http://stvincentstamps.webs.com>
- St. Vincent postcards: <http://stvincentpostcards.webs.com>
- War Tax stamps: <http://wartaxstamps.webs.com>
- Revenue stamps: <http://revenuestamps.webs.com>
- Airports on stamps: <http://airportstamps.webs.com>
- Audi on stamps: <http://audiphilately.webs.com>
- PhotoStamps for sale at: <http://photostamps.webs.com>
- Philately (general) <http://philately.webs.com>
- My life on wheels: <http://mylifeonwheels.webs.com>
- Swiss Postcards <http://swisspostcards.webs.com>
- Swiss train tickets <http://swisstraintickets.webs.com>
- Mid-Cities Stamp Club <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com>

... as well as a few other non-philatelic sites, including some that they've already shut down (probably due to my lack of adding / updating content on a regular basis...)

My key site was at <http://stvincentstamps.webs.com> and the links on the left side of the multiple pages that make up that site, along with links to the other sites mentioned above (each of which has multiple pages...).

About 2 years ago, VistaPrint informed me that they owned "webs.com" since 2011 and that they were going to shut down all sites there, regardless of whether or not one had "free" sites (like all of mine) or some sort of paid "premium" version (i.e.: more features, more disk space, etc). According to [WebsiteBuilderExpert.com](http://www.websitebuilderexpert.com), [webs.com](http://webs.com) has/had over 55 million websites (although it is unknown how many of those are actively used or are abandoned). There's some historical info at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webs\\_\(web\\_hosting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webs_(web_hosting)).

That kind of threw me in a panic, as now 15 – 20 years of creating and updating these sites would just "poof" disappear... At that point, I purchased a domain which I called "BetweenThePerfs" (kind of appropriate I thought, for a variety of reasons...), and started creating various pages on that site (<https://BetweenThePerfs.com>) and started transitioning some of the above sites to my own domain.

While my "webs.com" sites were all distinct separate sub-domains within [webs.com](http://webs.com) (with the sub-domain name in front of "webs.com" and with various "pages" within that sub-domain), at [BetweenThePerfs.com](http://BetweenThePerfs.com), there will only be one main domain ([BetweenThePerfs.com](http://BetweenThePerfs.com)), and all content will be underneath that as web pages. That will make restructuring every site above a bit more difficult...

After VistaPrint's announcement 2 years ago, they gave the date of June 30, 2021 at which time they would shut down all [webs.com](http://webs.com) sites. They said one could build sites (although not necessarily free) at VistaPrint. Then, nothing really happened (as far as the shut-down). June 30, 2021 came & went, and my sites were still up (except some that had already been shut down due to my lack of adding/updating content ...). I figured that they had dropped the subject ... Now, on July 25, 2023, VistaPrint announced that while they had initially anticipated moving [webs.com](http://webs.com) sites to another website builder, there were difficulties due to technical limitations, and as such, "you must move your website to another provider by August 31, 2023, as it will cease to exist". As such, they recommended their "Vista x Wix" offering.

Wix.com is a provider of websites; both free of charge and paid. That can be done at [wix.com](http://wix.com) directly, or in my case, via a link through [Vistaprint.com](http://Vistaprint.com). I did briefly look at it, and muddled through starting to re-create one of my websites, and even then, just a part of a webpage. I decided to give up on that because as with [webs.com](http://webs.com), you don't actually "own" the site or webpage (although you do have copyright over the information that is presented as far as I understand it, assuming you own the copyright).

So, what to do? Well, I've already got a head start with my

own [BetweenThePerfs.com](http://BetweenThePerfs.com) site. I guess I've only got a limited amount of time left to copy my content (text & images) from the sites above and try to incorporate them into [BetweenThePerfs.com](http://BetweenThePerfs.com). But, that is not as easy as it sounds. It's not just "copy & paste"... Oh, no. Both [webs.com](http://webs.com) and the domain provider & hosting service of my [BetweenThePerfs.com](http://BetweenThePerfs.com) provide "template" based ways of creating web pages (phew, no knowledge of HTML, XML, etc, is required). Sure, text can be copied from the old page. But inserting it into a new web page requires creating rows & columns for text elements and lots of reformatting. But wait, if you want to have text accompanied by a photo or scan, that changes things...

I actually liked the [webs.com](http://webs.com) website builder a bit better than the one offered by Ionos (formerly 1&1), which is a German company (but with operations in the USA); they are a domain registrar and host and also provide email services. With over 11 million domains registered at Ionos, they are one of the largest ones out there, they have over 90,000 servers, 8 million customers, 10 data centers, and 4,000 employees in 40 countries. That at least gave me some assurance that they might be around for a while...

[Webs.com](http://webs.com) did offer the ability (at no charge) to insert PayPal buttons if you wanted to sell something on your site. At "Vista x Wix" though, that seems to be a paid premium feature. On the other hand, my [BetweenThePerfs.com](http://BetweenThePerfs.com) web-builder does provide a built-in PayPal button generator, although it's not as nice as the one at [webs.com](http://webs.com), where I could have that button easily arranged next to whatever text I needed regarding the item I'm selling.

The dilemma of course is, that "free websites" sound great (as a consumer), but someone has to pay the bills for that free website, right? They are the people involved with the infrastructure, costs of web servers, electricity, etc. And then someone decides that "free" may not be such a good business model after all. And here we are... I figured if I'm going to continue to have philatelic (or other) web content out there, I'd better own it! Hence buying the [BetweenThePerfs.com](http://BetweenThePerfs.com) domain name and webpage builder access. The only long-term problem is that some day, it can also just go away, if I don't pay my monthly bills for the domain & website hosting. Technically, that would happen if I were to pass away; my credit card would also go away on that day since I'm an individual, and not a "business entity" where someone else could continue to pay the fees. I'm sure that happens a lot out there with private (not corporate) websites, and that a lot of interesting content just goes away.

The internet can be a good place to get your philatelic hobby & knowledge out there (whether it's basic or detailed philatelic in nature), even at little or no cost. There is still no other hobby that I know of that has as much published (whether in print or online) as stamp collecting & philately. Physical publishing (whether philatelic publications, or society journals and books) will physically remain, however, publishing on an internet website does not mean that the information will survive long-term. For example, [EXPONET.info](http://EXPONET.info) is a great website with 1,137 philatelic exhibits, containing 85,262 pages that you can view & enjoy. Ray Cartier and I both have some of our exhibits there. [EXPONET](http://EXPONET.info) is based in the Czech Republic, and somebody has to be funding this site (<http://www.exponet.info/index.php?lng=EN>).

So, will I get ALL of my [webs.com](http://webs.com) sites fully transitioned to [BetweenThePerfs.com](http://BetweenThePerfs.com) by August 31? I'm writing this on August 6, so I have just 25 days to do so, unfortunately, I also can't do this that quickly, as the various [webs.com](http://webs.com) web pages were slowly built over the course of up to 20 years, so there's lots of stuff to be transferred and redone!

So what is the "take-away" from all of this?

- 1) Free websites may be great initially, but you saw what could happen!
- 2) Regardless of the entirety above, I do recommend that if you have a specialty philatelic collecting area whose knowledge you want to share and make available (other than in print media), that you research the best way to put it on the web. Do keep in mind though, that if you want your website to outlive you, then you may have to provide provisions in your will or trust documents to have that be effected. Just a suggestion.

And as I always say: **Read, Set, Collect!** Oh, wait, that should now be **Ready, Set, Publish!**

## 2021 Scott Stamp Catalog Bid Form

Now is the time for one of the great annual stamp club events !!!! Each year the club gives every member the chance to purchase a previous (that is the **2021**) Scott Standard Stamp Catalogs. The catalogs will be sold as 2 lots: "Volumes 1 - 6" and the "US Specialized" catalogs. The club will take sealed bids until October 27, 2023. To bid, please send in a bid with the following information:

Bid for 2021 Scott Volumes 1 to 6 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Bid for 2021 Scott US Specialized \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

**BIDDER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### RULES for BIDDERS:

Submit bids by mail to: Mid-Cities Stamp Club, PO Box 820784, N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784  
Mark the outside of the envelope: "Catalog Bid"  
Bids must be received by: October 27, 2023 (received by, NOT postmarked by!)  
In case of a tie: The envelope with a commemorative stamp used for postage wins  
If a tie still exists, the earliest postmarked entry wins  
The winning bidder: Will be called to make arrangements for delivery and payment

The winning bidder and amount will be announced at the Arlington November 1, 2023 club meeting.



Be sure to visit the Club website on the **Internet:**  
← <https://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:

<http://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →



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918-836-1681



## MEET & EAT for September 2023

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet & Eats" are held before our club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather at 5:00 PM and start ordering at that time. However, latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. Meals should be over around 6:15 to 6:30 PM with the Arlington new meeting start time now being at 7:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM.

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

--> See updates for mask policies as published or announced by local, regional & state authorities or individual restaurants.

### ARLINGTON

September 6 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington, TX 76013-2203 (817-861-1060).

### EULESS

September 20 Chili's, 2101 Airport Freeway, Bedford, TX 76021 (817-545-0012).

### GRANBURY

September 26 Grumps Burgers, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

## Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at [Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com](mailto:Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com)

5/19

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

Various USA Scott #C2 & C3 on covers & cards are needed for my U.S Air Mail collection. Please forward scans of the covers / cards along with asking price(s) to Don Jones at [adjaams@aol.com](mailto:adjaams@aol.com) Thank you. 2/21

## For Sale

FREE 111-page (all varieties) or 26-page album (basic version) of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$4.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each!) Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 1/21

United States Booklets, large selection of unexploded booklets for sale at just above face value. Starting with booklet #BK104 to #BK259. Identify booklet number desired and send an email to Dave Stockbridge at [stockdave44@yahoo.com](mailto:stockdave44@yahoo.com).

Dave will send you a price, if booklet is available and payment instructions. 4/23

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**TSDA Dealer Bourse - Aug. 25 - 26**  
**Houston Stamp Show - Sept. 15 - 17**  
**EXPO Planning Mtg - Oct. 7**