Columbia Philatelic Society

Since 1935

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APS chapter #043067

August 2026 Newsletter

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Commentary and updates: As we've explained in the past, we're trying to put together an exhibit for our upcoming stamp show on September 25 and 26 featuring philatelic material honoring the 250th anniversary of the United States. Jerry is going to do the history of the country in first day covers from 1776 – 1969. Annette is using two frames to exhibit stamps issued in 1976; the state flags and the issues honoring the bicentennial. Mick says he's got one frame on the one-cent George Washington stamp, John has two frames on the battle of Cowpens first day covers, David Anderson will exhibit some of his autographed U. S. astronaut covers, and Jerry will add a frame of first day covers autographed by celebrities. We will need volunteers Friday morning to help the dealers bring their philatelic items into the gym and we'll need some people to help them tear down on Saturday afternoon. If you've got a hand truck or something similar, please bring it with you Friday morning. We have a show cover which we're asking the West Columbia postmaster to approve the cancellation postmark. The post office will also have a booth at the show. Don't forget to ask for your $10 discount ticket when you come to the show. It can be used at any of our vendor tables.

The next stamp show is GWINNPEX in Stone Mountain, Georgia. It's Friday and Saturday, October 16th and 17th at the Mountain Park United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 1405 Rockbridge Road. They've got 15 dealers, a youth table and the American Topical Association will also be represented. There's free parking and admission. If you can't get to Mount Rushmore you might consider visiting the Stone Mountain memorial, the largest bas relief sculpture in the world depicting Confederate leaders, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. It took 57 years to complete.

Fred McGary

Meeting Reminder!

The next meeting will be **Sunday, August 20** , 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.

A very Happy Birthday to: Andy Banco (5); Phil Shepard (9); Jim Richardson (17); Wayne Peelman (18). Congratulations and many, many more.

"If you remember, we sent out a survey early this year," said Linda Hazlett. There were 18 responses to the five questions: How many years have you been a member; why did you join and why are you still a member; what do you enjoy most about the meetings and/or being a member of CPS; what is one area we should focus on in 2026; any suggestions for the planning committee or the officers.

Linda Hazlett

Anna Brannin

"Some of the key takeaways were: I enjoy the meetings; getting to meet people; talking about and learning about stamps; the auctions; the programs and the fact that the CPS is 90 years old," Anna Brannin explained.

"Members also appreciated that this is a friendly atmosphere, that people are willing to share their knowledge and we have a Zoom meeting option," added Linda.

"Our future priorities," said Anna, "are growing the membership, increasing membership engagement, improving communications, developing future leaders and expanding community outreach."

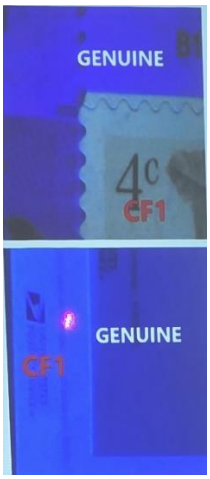
Linda Hazlett Anna Brannin

PROGRAMS:

"Every 2026 stamp you see here can be found in a counterfeit," stated David Crone. So far, he said, everything, including the high value stamps, have been counterfeited.

"If you buy something that's counterfeit," David said, "you're probably going to get the stamps from GOFO, not in a genuine U. S. package. GOFO is a Chinese owned delivery company. Their return address frequently is a landfill in Wilmington, Delaware,"

David says if you see stamps at anything less than face value, it's probably counterfeit. Make sure you have some way to dispute the charge on your credit card, he warns. "Any stamps that I purchased that were counterfeit, I've disputed and got most of my money back," he said.



This is a picture of the 4-cent Angel Horn stamp. Using daylight and UV light sources compare the stamp surface gloss, color and backing paper response with a known genuine reference sample. The counterfeit has a glossy, off-white surface, the genuine is dull, white surface in daylight. The backing paper is dead in long-wave ultra-violet light on genuine stamps, high bright on counterfeits. The color of counterfeits is brighter than on real stamps. "Why would you buy counterfeit 4-cent stamps?" he asked.

"If the post office finds someone using counterfeit stamps, they'll consider your mail abandoned, and it goes into the trash," David warned, "some of the postal people are getting a bit smarter about it, particularly on the counterfeit priority labels."

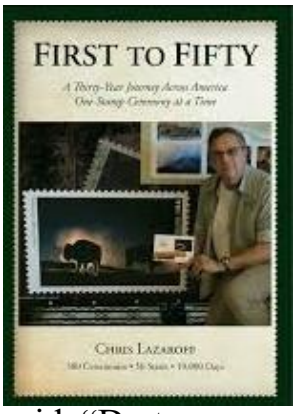
David Crone

"When Mick Zais and I attended two international stamp shows in 2026, one in Dubai, the other in Macao, I went as the U. S. Commissioner," said Chris Lazaroff. *(A stamp commissioner is an official appointed to manage, transport and safeguard competitive stamp exhibits on behalf of collectors from a specific region or nation. Because high value stamp collections are fragile and extremely valuable, collectors rarely mail them to the site of the international shows. Instead, they trust a commissioner to act as courier and advocate.)*

At the international stamp show in May, Boston 2026, Chris was the Commissioner-General "which means I oversaw 4,000 exhibit frames and 72 international commissioners coming from around the world," he explained.

Chris is no stranger to stamps and stamp collecting. He's designed cachets for envelopes used for first day covers and, over time, has won over 25 Earl Planty award which is presented

by the American First Day Cover Society for the best cover cachet in a particular category for that year. "The category I would routinely enter was single color, commercial printed FDC's cachets," Chris said.



Chris is also the first person to attend first day ceremonies in all 50 states. First to Fifty is a book he's written documenting in stories and anecdotes how he accomplished that feat. It's the story of how one free airline ticket turned into a 30-year journey across America. The journey took 10,000 days, 420,000 miles and he passed through about 150 airports. By the time he succeeded, he attended exactly 300 first day ceremonies.

"Northwest Airlines ran a promotion called, 'one-two-free,'" Chris said, "Do two round trips, get a free ticket. It had to be used within the first quarter of 1989," he added. Chris stated that Lynn's Magazine used to print a calendar of stamps being issued the following year, who was on the stamp and the first day city. In January 1989 the Montana statehood stamp popped up.

"Northwest Airlines flew into Helena, the state capital. I could fly in on Saturday, go to the ceremony on Sunday and catch the last flight out and be home Sunday night," Chris noted.

By that time Chris had been to eight first day ceremonies. "My wife denise, said I could go, and I was off," he said, "She's regretted it for 30 years."

While writing the book, Denise suggested he write a story from each state to make the book more interesting.

"Oklahoma is one of my favorite stories," Chris mentioned. "In 2003 there was an Oklahoma statehood stamp issued and Jay Bigalke, current CEO and president of Lynn's Stamps LLC, was a reporter at the time. Jay and I travelled the country attending these ceremonies. I found a Ramada Inn about a mile from the ceremony and in most motels each room has a door facing outside," he explained.

"At three in the morning there was a loud pounding on the door. We ignored it thinking it might be some drunk," Chris remarked. The pounding continued on the window, then back to the door. Chris called the police and explained the situation. The dispatcher said to ask who's there, which he did. From the other side of the door came the reply, "We are the police."

The dispatcher heard the response and said there were no officers in the vicinity and to ask for a badge number. I shouted, "I've got the police on the line, what's your badge number?" The voice on the other side of the door calmly said, "It'll take too long to run it, tell her there are Federal Marshalls on the scene."

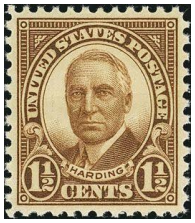
She relayed the information to the officer responding to my call. "My officer is in the parking lot and he has visual contact with whoever is outside your door," she said, "When he

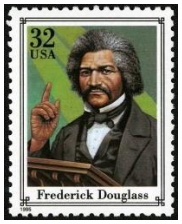
determines it's safe, he will let you know it's Officer Smith from the Oklahoma City Police and you can open the door." I hung up the phone and heard muffled talking outside the door. This was followed by a light tapping on the door. "Sir, this is Officer Smith with the Oklahoma City Police, can you please open the door?" I did and was immediately facing three Federal Marshalls. "They notified me there were two escaped convicts in the vicinity and asked if I had seen them. I assured them neither Jay nor I had. They left but neither of us could go back to sleep. Later that day we went to the first day ceremony," he said.

Chris Lazaroff

EVENTS AND BIRTHDAYS:

"A whole bunch of exciting events happened this month and some interesting people had a birthday. Let's take a look," said Rick Miller.





August 2, 1776: delegates of the Second Continental Congress began signing the new U. S. Constitution; August 2, 1923: President Warren G. Harding died; August 3, 1492: explorer Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain; August 4, 1790: the U.S. Coast Guard was founded; August 7, 1782: President George Washington ordered the creation of a Badge of Military Merit to recognize bravery in combat. It was renamed the Purple Heart in 1932; August 11, 1846: former slave Frederick Douglas spoke in front of an audience in the north for the first time; August 14, 1945: Japan surrendered, ending WWII; August 15, 1969: the Woodstock Music and Art Festival attracted 500,000 people to Max

Yasgur's farm for four days of music; August 17, 1777: Militiamen, during the Revolutionary War won the battle of Bennington, Vermont; August 16, 1780: American forces suffered a defeat at the Battle of Camden, S. C.; August 16, 1896: gold was discovered in the Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska; August 18, 1920: the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote; August 21, 1959: the territory of Hawai'i was named the 50th state in the Union; August 24-25, 1814: British forces burned Washington, D. C. during the War of 1812; August 28, 1963: more than 250,000 people attended the 'March on Washington,' organized by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

BIRTHDAYS:

August 1: Frances Scott Key and author Herman Melville; August 3: WWII reporter, Ernie Pyle; August 4: musician, Louis Armstrong and Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, who saved thousands of Jews during WWII; August 7: scientist and diplomat Ralph Bunche; August 8: Matthew Henson, who accompanied Robert Peary on his many expeditions; August 10: President Herbert Hoover and Snoopy from the "Peanuts" comic strip. It was this date cartoonist Charles Schultz chose for Snoopy's birthday; August 13: Wild West

performer Annie Oakley (Phoebe Ann Mosey) and film director Alfred Hitchcock; August 17: American frontiersman and congressman, Davy Crockett; August 18: explorer Meriwether Lewis, who along with William Clark explored the American west; August 19: Orville Wright, along with his brother invented, built and flew the first airplane; August 21: President Benjamin Harrison, the grandson of the 9th president, William Henry Harrison; August 25: composer and orchestra conductor, Leonard Bernstein; August 27: President Lyndon Baines Johnson and humanitarian, Mother Teresa (Anjezë Gonxje Bojaxhiu); August 29: U. S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes; August 30: author of *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley and civil rights leader, Roy Wilkins.

Rick Miller

NEW STAMP ISSUES:

Coast Guard Anniversary September 12 – New London, Connecticut 06320

Winter Wreath – Sept. 18 Humble, Texas 77338

Christmas Cookies – Sept. 19 Washington, D. C. 20066

Kwanzaa – September 23 – Norfolk, Virginia 23501

Squirrels and Chipmunks – Sept. 25 Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005

Hanukkah – September 29 – New Orleans, Louisiana 70113