



Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

January 2026 Newsletter

Editor, Jerry Emanuel

jemassoc2@gmail.com

www.columbiascphilately.com

Commentary and Updates: Welcome to a chilly, wintry February in South Carolina. It's a busy month. Don't forget, our next meeting is one week earlier than normal. It's the second Sunday, February 8. It will give us another chance to plan for the Winter Stamp Show, February 13th and 14th.



Your annual dues are due. Since Bob Anderson is no longer our treasurer, you can send your dues to me at 955 E. Main Street, P. O. box 39, Lexington, South Carolina, 29072. With your check, money order, beads, camels or other currency, include the renewal form you'll find at the end of this newsletter. Of course, we, and the banks, prefer currency which fits inside an envelope.



The CPS Strategic Planning Committee has begun work. They have created a questionnaire which is attached to this newsletter. Hard copies will be available at the next meeting on February 8. Anna Brannin, Linda Hazlett, Hannah Tveden and Andy Banco are on the committee. Thanks, everyone for volunteering to do this.

Our stamp show is scheduled for Friday, February 13th and Saturday, February 14th. Friday's show begins at 11:00 and ends at 5 p.m. Saturday begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Dealers will be arriving at 8 a.m. Friday and we're going to need some volunteers on hand to help get their wares into the gym and help get them set up on the tables. We will also need hand trucks or other similar items to move their stuff into the building. We'll need the first shift to be at the registration table at 10:30 a.m., 30 minutes before the show opens. We'll also need some help at the end of the show, around 3 p.m., to move the vendors out of the gym.

Bob Wilson, John Owen, Jerry Emanuel and David Anderson will be exhibiting their collections. If you want to show your collection, contact John Owen at johnwovensr@gmail.com and let him know how many frames you need. There are 16 exhibits per frame.

We also want to welcome two new members, Lee Chorey from Sumter and Duane Mendenhall from Chapin.

Fred McGary



The next meeting will be **Sunday, February 8**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.



A very Happy Birthday to: Lee Chorey (5); Janet Vollman (6) and Hannah Tvedten (24).
Congratulations and many, many more.

PROGRAMS:

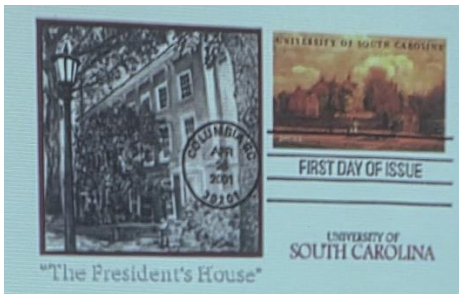
John “Stormy” Withers is a long-distant member of the Columbia club living in the New England area. “I’ve lived in Connecticut for about 30 years, and have been able to keep with me all of my collections,” he said.

He has used his philately in an interesting and unusual way.

“When we got here, we were asked to do a few things by relatives and it led to my concept of using my collections to chronicle my family’s story using various philatelic stamp, coin and memorabilia to make these chronicles for our children and grandchildren,” he added.

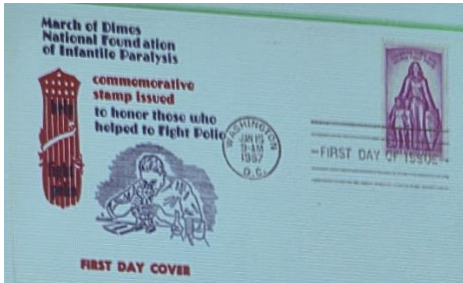
This is a first day cover of the Army stamp and the cachet honoring the military service. “Many of my family served their country, some graduating from West Point,” Withers stated.

In addition to his family ties in Texas, his family shares similar ties to South Carolina. On April 26, 2001, the U. S. Postal Service issued the University of South Carolina Bicentennial stamped postcard. The university issued a series of postcards to members of the university historical society. “The State newspaper ran a special article on our family ties to U of SC going back some 150 years and included some family photographs,” Withers mentioned.

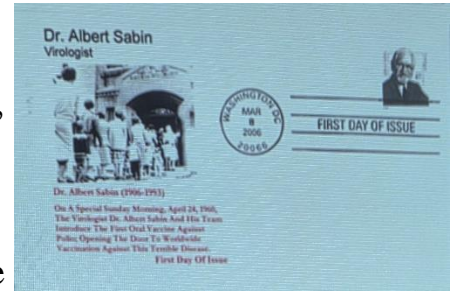


“Our great uncle, Charles H. Neil, graduated from U of SC in 1903,” he added. After graduation, he taught school in South Carolina. In 1917, he received an invitation to teach at Yale University where he earned his master’s degree. He also participated in the founding of the University of Hawaii.





“One of the things I was lucky to be involved with was the early experiments of the polio vaccine,” Withers said, “those accomplishments are commemorated in a number of countries, including the



U. S. on their postage stamps and philatelic items.”

Dr. Jonas Salk developed the first effective polio vaccine in the 1950’s. Dr. Albert Sabin was able to create the first oral vaccine against polio.

John Withers

SHOW & TELL: The club newsletter of December 2025 has a picture of a



postage vending machine. “This is an early 1930’s Schermack machine,” Bob Wilson said. During the industrial revolution, from 1890’s to the 1910’s, there was a lot of interest in streamlining things, making them bigger, stronger and faster in the office and the home. “It was a big problem in the mailroom,” Wilson said, “corporations couldn’t send mail any faster than someone could line up at a table and lick, stick and stuff.” “They couldn’t do more than 100 pieces of mail a day,” he added.

Enter an employee at the Detroit Mailing Systems Company, Joseph Schermack. “He designed a machine that would automatically stuff, seal and post, putting postage on an envelope. He got it up to 200 pieces of mail an hour. Corporations had his machines in every one of their mailrooms,” Wilson explained.

Eventually, Schermack left his company and formed his own, the Schermack Vending Machine Company. He became best known for his vending machines starting in 1910.

“It took him five or six years to create a stamp that would work with his machines in a high-speed industrial setting and he did it with the approval of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The government perforations were too small, and they wouldn’t work on his machines,” Wilson said.

Schermack’s company was eventually bought by Pitney-Bowes in the late 1940’s. The machine dispensed three, three cent stamps for a dime. “The company would buy uncut imperforate sheets from the government and they would slit them into strips, paste the ends together, put them on a coil and load the machines. The machine was calibrated to hit the space between the stamps,” Wilson concluded.

Machines such as these were particularly apt for use during wartime as they reduced the manpower needed to operate postal services. With a shortage of staff due to military enlistment, stamp vending machines were advertised as easy to use while also helping to reduce the burden of increased stamp demand on the already under-staffed post office.



Bob Wilson

“As most of you know, I collect space covers, autographed by astronauts and cosmonauts,” said David Anderson.



The United States landed a spacecraft on Mars, Viking 1, on our 200th anniversary, July 4, 1976. A little later that year, we landed a second one.

“Many think this was the first successful Mars landing. Actually, the Russians did it about four years earlier,” Anderson remembered. The heavy Russian lander, it weighed 10,000 pounds, started to broadcast a picture and 110 seconds after landing, it fell silent.



Ten to twelve years ago, America’s Mars Surveyor imagery found the Russian spacecraft.

“The Chinese started orbiting men into space 20 years ago, so I started collecting the signatures of Chinese astronauts. This is the first Chinese “spaceman.” He alone, went up in



space and stayed in orbit for about 24 hours before coming back to Earth. On the right is the second flight, two people this time,” he informed. Anderson said he likes to get the launch

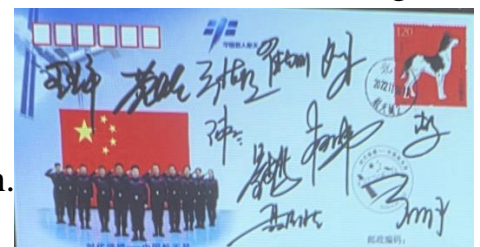


date and the recovery date on a cover which are then signed by the astronauts later. “I have no idea which signature is which astronaut,” he confessed. This is the cover signed by the first



Chinese astronaut training class with their names in English.

The cover on the right shows the autographs of the people who spent time on the Chinese Space Station.



David Anderson

“This is a combination lock on an old post office box,” said Dale Carruth, “they use keys these days.” Her father bought this one a long time ago at a craft show. “To open it, go three times to the right, one and a half turns to the left and back to the right and it opens,” she explained. “Of course, you have to dial your personal combination too,” she added.

Post office boxes originated as a secure, privatized solution for accessing mail. Initially, mail was held for pickup, and as volume grew, specialized boxes were created inside post offices for faster, secure service. The design allowed postal staff to deposit mail from behind a wall, while customers opened their box on the lobby side. It also allows customers to access their mail after the post office has closed while keeping the lobby open.

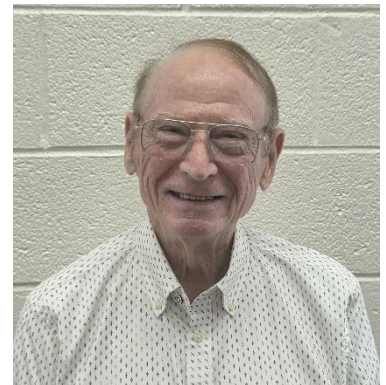


Dale Carruth



“How many have heard of US250 or SC250?” asked John Owen.

We have a commission here in South Carolina, every county is involved. There are events commemorating the American Revolution every month throughout the year. “I went to Cowpens recently and there were close to 500 people at that Revolutionary war site,” Owen observed. Closer to home, the city of Camden has a year-round museum and exhibits at 212 Broad Street. For more information, www.info@simplyrevolutionary.com.



John Owen

“It’s January and there are so many events and people who are connected with the month,” said Rick Miller.



January 1, 1776, George Washington unveils the Grand Union flag, America’s first official flag; February 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declares all slaves are free; January 3, 1959, Alaska becomes the 49th state in the Union; January 5, 1972, President Richard Nixon signs a bill to build and test the space shuttle.





January 6, 1941, in a State of the Union address, President Franklin D. Roosevelt defines four essential freedoms worth defending: Freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom of want and freedom from fear; January 7, 1782, the first U. S. commercial bank opens in Philadelphia; January 8, 1815, General Andrew Jackson and his troops defend New Orleans from the British, unaware that peace had been declared two weeks earlier; January 10, 1912, the ‘flying boat’ aircraft, invented by Glenn Curtis made its first flight; January 12, 1932, Hattie W. Caraway, a democrat from Arkansas, was appointed to the U. S. Senate to fill out the term of her deceased husband. Later in the year she became the first woman elected to the senate.



January 23, 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell was awarded her M.D., becoming America’s first woman doctor; January 24, 1848, the California gold rush began after the accidental discovery of gold near Coloma, California; January 28, 1915, the U. S. Coast Guard was created combining the Lifesaving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service; **Birthdays:** January 15, Martin Luther King; January 17, Benjamin Franklin; January 18, Daniel Webster.



January 19 General Robert E. Lee and Poet Edgar Allen Poe; January 21, Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson; January 26, General Douglas MacArthur; January 27, the founder of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), Samuel Gompers; January 29, “Common Sense” author, Thomas Paine.



January 29, the 25th President of the United States, William McKinley. He was assassinated September 6, 1901; January 30, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the only president to serve more than two terms; January 31, Jackie Robinson who broke the color line in professional baseball.

Rick Miller

C.P.S. FEBRUARY STAMP SHOW:

The winter stamp show is February 13th and 14th at the Tri-City Leisure Center, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia. Doors open at eleven o'clock Friday. "We have 14 vendors coming to the show," said show coordinator, Mark Postmus. Among them are: Tony Crumley, Philip Spitzer, Hugh Clark, Harry Brooks, Cary Cochran, Frank Wheeler, Davy Beard, Mel Cole and newcomer Shawn Sweeney. "These dealers will have world-wide and U. S. stamps, first day covers, postcards and philatelic supplies," Postmus stated.

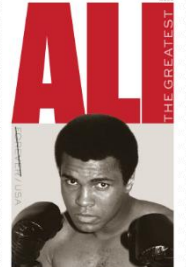


Friday morning we're going to need some help getting the dealers unloaded and set up in the gym of the Leisure Center. We definitely need many carts and hand trucks which will make everything so much easier. We'll also need help on Saturday afternoon to break down and help the dealers pack up their stuff. We want to have at least two people at the registration table per shift beginning at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Mark at mapostmus@yahoo.com to sign up for a time slot.

If you're exhibiting your collection(s) make sure you're at the center Friday morning to help set up the frames. Every member is encouraged to display their collections. John Owen is in charge of the exhibits. Contact him at johnwovensr@gmail.com and let him know how many frames you'll need. Each frame will accommodate 16 exhibits.

Mark Postmus

NEW STAMP ISSUES:



Angels and Trumpets, January 9, Kenosha, Wisconsin; Love, January 13, Kansas City, Missouri; Muhammed Ali, January 15, Louisville, Kentucky; Colorado Statehood, January 24, Denver, Colorado; Phillis Wheatley, January 29, Boston, Ma.



Columbia Philatelic Society **Renewal** Membership Form

Please complete the form. Submit to CPS secretary or treasurer. Checks for dues can be made out to "CPS". If you pay with cash, request a receipt. Thank you for renewing your membership in CPS. Your support of CPS is important. CPS Officer info sheet available upon request (printed annually, updated continuously). Membership list (printed copy) available also upon request to Secretary or Treasurer. This list is confidential for members use only.

NAME: _____ Today's Date: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ Apt/Unit _____
 CITY/STATE: _____ Zip+4: _____ - _____
 CONTACT INFO: Telephone (H) _____ - _____ - _____
 (C) _____ - _____ - _____
 E-Mail: _____

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION

I certify the information is correct and understand this information is confidential and for CPS members use only.

Signature: _____

(Required for data use/sharing)

If there are any changes in your address or other information, please complete this form.

DUES: Adults (18+) = \$20 per year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) / Pay \$5 per quarter for the remaining months. All communication of meetings, notices & information are supplied by email. If you don't have an email, information will be supplied via USPS. CPS meets the 3rd Sunday every month at the Tri-City Leisure Center, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia, S. C.

Application and payment may be sent to the club treasurer.

Modified/updated, January 2025

Send this application with your dues to:
 Fred McGary, 955 East Main Street, Box 39,
 Lexington, South Carolina 29072

Columbia Philatelic Society SURVEY

Please complete the survey and email it to Anna Brannin (annabrannin@gmail.com) or bring it to the next meeting.



How many years have you been a member of the CPS?
(<3) (3-5) (6-10) (11-20) (+20)

Why did you join the CPS? Why are you still a member?

What do you enjoy the most about the meetings and/or being a member of the club?

What is one area you think the CPS should focus on in 2026?

Do you have any suggestions for this committee or the officers?

Thank you for participating.

Anna, Linda, Andy and Hannah

