



Columbia Philatelic Society

APS chapter #043067

May 2025 Newsletter

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Commentary and updates: Greetings at the beginning of another hot summer. I'm not an official weatherman, just guessing, but you know it will be.

Our June meeting will be the second Sunday, June 8, instead of our normal third Sunday in the month. Our regular meeting date falls on Father's Day, a whole day dedicated to dear old dad.

Father's Day didn't get much support nationally the way Mother's Day did. We're supposed to be tough and rugged so the sentimentality isn't as pronounced as Mom's Day. On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored an event especially for fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the explosions at the Mairmont Coal Company mines. It was a one-time thing.

On June 19, 1910, Washington State held the first Father's Day and the idea spread across the nation. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane by pressing a button in Washington, D. C. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge urged state government to observe the day. In 1972, President Richard Nixon made Father's Day a federal holiday. Who expects another necktie next week?

Our fall stamp show is scheduled for October 10th and 11th which is a week later than announced. It will be a Friday and Saturday show. Dealers will be moving in Friday morning starting at 8:00 and the show will open at 11 a.m. We need a lot of extra help with the moving in as it is a very short time compared to our old schedule.

The club recently received a donation of a big collection of U.S. mint stamps. I've been looking through it and most issues have mint plate blocks and singles from the 1940's through the 37-cent issues and a few later. There's also a bunch of pre-1940 used stamps, but nothing of high value. The collection is laid out in a bunch of nice stock books. I'll bring some of the stamps to the next meeting for our auction sale. Among these stamps will be USPS commemorative year sets and booklets with the stamps included from 1970 – 1999 at one-half the price of the stamps as a starting bid.



Fred McGary

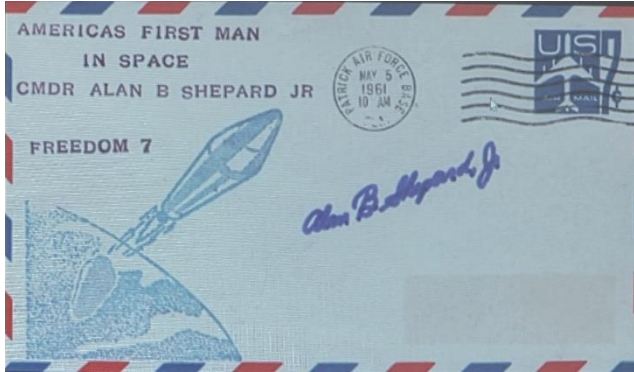


The next meeting will be **Sunday, June 8**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.



A very Happy Birthday to: Fred Monk (4); Mark Newell (5); Michael Williamson (18); and Becky Ferguson (19). Congratulations and many, many more.

SHOW & TELL: “I collect space covers signed by astronauts and cosmonauts that have flown in space,” said David Anderson.

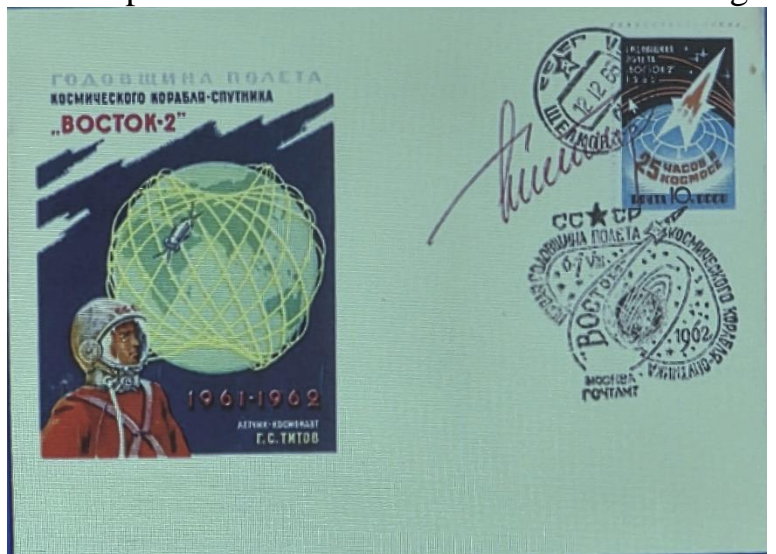


Launched May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard was America’s first man in space. Anderson says he has all the Americans who flew in space in the 1960’s on covers such as this. Shepard went back into space aboard Apollo 14 in 1971. His destination was the surface of the moon. A highlight of his

mission was when he hit a couple of golf balls into space with a makeshift club demonstrating the effect of lunar gravity.

“I didn’t start collecting Russia until six months ago,” Anderson commented, “Russian signatures of cosmonauts are much cheaper than U. S. covers.” He said they’re still priced \$50 to \$75 for each cover.

“This is German Titov, the second cosmonaut in space. It was 1961,” he said. “Titov circled the Earth 17 times. This cover cost about \$50,” he added.



Anderson said there is one Soviet cosmonaut whose signature is costly. “Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space was launched April 12, 1961, a month before Alan Shepard. His covers sell for \$500 to \$750,” Anderson mentioned, “I’ve looked at several. I just can’t bring myself to write the check.” He said the difference in price is because these men lived for many years after their flight, so these are not launch date covers, just a commemorative stamp for his mission. “They basically got the guy to sign the cover at some point,” he said, “the covers I like to get have the launch covers with the launch and landing dates on them.”



“This is a cover of the third and fourth cosmonauts to launch into orbit in 1962,” Anderson said. John Glenn went into space and did three orbits in 1962. By this time the Russians had been putting people in space for one and two days at a time. The U. S. was really in a catch-up mode, according to Anderson.

“By the mid 1960’s we had equaled and then very quickly far exceeded the Russians,” Anderson declared.

This is a cover of the fifth and sixth missions with Valeriy Bykovskiy in Vostok five on June 14, 1963 and the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova in Vostok six on June 16, 1963. Bykovskiy’s time in space lasted five days. Tereshkova spent three days in space, orbiting the Earth 48 times. Twenty years later Sally Ride would become America’s first woman in space.



All the Russian cosmonauts were launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome which is located in the former Soviet satellite country of Kazakhstan. Baikonur is still active today.

Anderson said one can find covers like these from the early Russian space program and they’re relatively inexpensive. Surprisingly, the more recent missions are two and three times more expensive.

“I’ve got all the Russian missions from the 1960’s, which was about nine Soyuz missions,” he concluded.

David Anderson

PROGRAM: “Since November, I’ve probably purchased 10 or 15 worldwide stamp albums,” said Bob Anderson. “I’m a U. S. collector but what got me interested in foreign was the youth project our club so enthusiastically embraced,” he added. (The club added a youth table to our stamp show where youngsters were given a stamp album and a group of stamps for free to interest them in the hobby)



“You guys (the membership) brought in thousands of stamps since last fall solely to use at the youth table,” Bob commented.

These are some of his favorite acquisitions from the stamp albums he purchased.



“This stamp intrigued me as soon as I saw it. It’s a Christmas stamp yet it has a carnival theme,” Bob observed. He said one of the benefits of collecting is the stimulation of the curious mind. He asked why you would have a carnival theme on a Christmas stamp.

“I googled it and learned Montserrat, an island nation in the Caribbean, has a two-week, year-end carnival in the last half of December, and it’s been going on for 50 years or longer,” he said.

This stamp is one of four that has the carnival theme.

“The TOGO stamp would not leave me alone. I kept coming back to it. It’s so bright and I like flags and exotic places,” Bob said. TOGO was a German colony called Togoland in 1905. After World War 1, after the German defeat, it was divided between Great Britain and France. The residents of British Togoland voted to join the Gold Coast, which became the country of Ghana and French Togoland became an autonomous republic within the French Union. TOGO gained its independence from France in 1960. This stamp is part of a series in which they all have the flag but different values.



“These two stamps also captured my attention,” Bob declared. “The left stamp is from Panama. Look at the panther. They’re called different names: puma, cougar and mountain lion depending on region and historical context,” he added.



Bob asked the question, “Does anyone know what the young person is contemplating?” From those attending came a reply, “Alas poor Yorick, I knew him well.” The quote from Shakespeare’s play, “Hamlet” finds Hamlet and Horatio in a graveyard contemplating a skull. Hamlet realizes the skull belongs to Yorick, the jester who entertained him as a child.

“He’s contemplating knowledge,” Bob opined. “I guess there was a time when having a human skull sitting on your desk was not considered socially inappropriate,” Bob added.



“I always had a ‘thing’ for Betty,” Bob admitted, “I love the stamp because Archie doesn’t have a clue. Betty has little hearts over her head and Archie isn’t giving her the time of day yet he’s looking at Veronica who is looking at the milkshake,” Bob said.

Teenaged Archibald “Chick” Andrews debuted with Betty Cooper and Jughead Jones in *Pep Comics* #22 in December 1941. The story was written by Vic Bloom and illustrated by Bob Montana. “Archie” soon became the premier comic book for MLJ publishing.

In March 2011, a copy of *Archie Comics* #1, first published in 1942, was sold at auction for \$167,300, a record for a non-superhero comic book.

These three have interesting stories. The Day of the Polish Armed Forces, a celebration on August 15th, observes the anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw in 1920 against the Bolsheviks, securing Poland’s independence.



The Bolivia folklore characters are *Acalica* creatures or fairies sometimes seen as wizened men. They are said to control the weather and live in caves.



The German stamp says “German Unity,” and was issued on the seminal date of the reunification of Germany in 1990.



Bob Anderson

NEW STAMP ISSUES:



The military issues honor the 250th anniversaries of the U. S. Army, Marine Corps and the Navy, each a vital component of the nation’s defense. All three branches trace their origins to the Revolutionary War, born from the necessity to secure American independence. They were issued May 16, the first day city being Washington, D. C. 2004

Barbara Pierce Bush, the former first lady, is being honored with a stamp on June 10th at Kennebunkport, Maine 04046. Doug Tulino, acting postmaster general of the postal service said, “Barbara Bush charted a legacy for herself, and did it with conviction, determination and compassion.”

The current flag stamp joins a host of others in years past. It was issued June 7 at Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

COLUMBIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY AUCTION FORM

COUNTRY _____ LOT # _____

SCOTT # _____ RELATIVE VALUE _____

GRADE: X.FINE, V.FINE, FINE, V.GOOD, GOOD
(Scott Definition) Circle Appropriate

STAMPS: Mint-NH, H Used-NH, H
Complete Set, Short Set, Single, Block, PI Blk,
Misc Mixture, Other _____

COVER(S): FDI, SPEC CANCEL, OTHER CANCEL
(Circle Appropriate)

SUPPLIES: _____

GENERIC DESCRIPTION _____

MINIMUM OR _____ WINNING BID _____

SELLER _____ BUYER _____

PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED TO CPS: Y / N

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