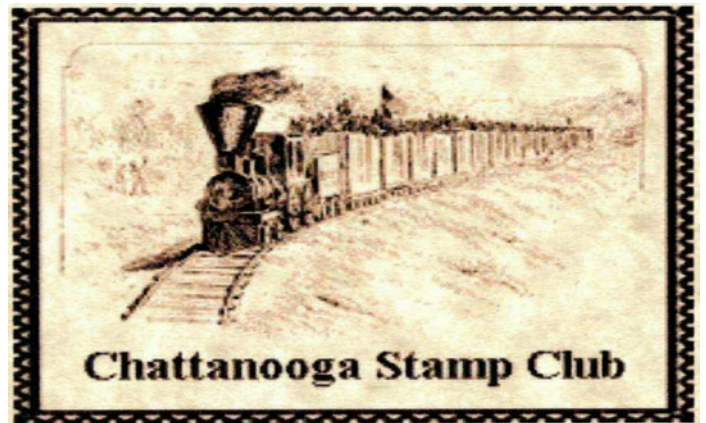


The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle

December, 2015



American Philatelic Society
Chapter 731
www.stamps.org



Official Journal of the Chattanooga Stamp Club

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE HICKORY VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 6605 SHALLOWFORD RD., CHATTANOOGA, TN.
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM, MEETING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM -- VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

December 10 Monthly Meeting
Program "The Division of the Union"
January 14 Delayed Christmas Dinner

CLUB OFFICERS

President Pat Coverdale plcoverdale@centurylink.net
Vice-president Jim Hogue jlhoguejr@charter.net
Secretary Tom Matuszak tommytwosocks@comcast.net
Treasurer Carl Anderson connie_anderson195@att.net
Newsletter Gene Bricker gbricker@catt.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis. Yearly dues are \$10.00; send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer:

Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd.
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CHRONICLE

The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society. The club has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS

The Southeast Federation web site is a source for information about stamp collecting activities in the region.
Visit at: www.sefsc.org/federation-clubs.html

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

American Philatelic Society (APS) is the largest nonprofit stamp collecting Foundation of philately in the world., With about 32,000 members as of 2014 worldwide.
Visit at: www.Stamps.org.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

Monthly meeting of the Chattanooga Stamp Club called to order at 7:25 PM by Pat Coverdale with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Veterans were Thanked for their Service to our Country. A good share of our members served in a lot of different capacities.

Minutes of last Months meeting were amended to read Mike Ezell to take over Circuit Books in January. Minutes approved as amended.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$1010.00. Dues for 2016 remain at \$10.00 Treasurer report approved.

Christmas Dinner signup Sheet will be available at the December meeting. Fellas be asking your Wives what's to be available.

Drinks for Dec will be Mary Sheckells, and Snack will be Mike Ezell.

Meeting Closed in anticipation of Auction.

The auction was conducted with many lots finding new owners.

Tom Matuszak, Secretary

A NOTE ABOUT THE DECEMBER PROGRAM:

The program titled, "The Division of the Union" is a DVD program from the American Philatelic Society. The program was created by the late Bob Davidson, who was president of the Chattanooga Stamp Club from 2003 to 2005. Bob passed away in 2007. He had been editor of the newsletter, and always promoting philately and the Chattanooga Stamp Club.

DECEMBER MEETING:

The December meeting is designated as the annual meeting. At this meeting, the election of officers is to be held by secret ballot. The decision to postpone the Christmas dinner to January was made after discussion of schedules and activities over the coming holidays.

For January:



Protecting Your Valuable Investment

by Bob Davidson

Most of us treasure our collections. You undoubtedly consider yours at least as dear as any item of comparable value you own. That is because it is unique! Over time you have added items of both individual significance and value; and you have assembled areas of specialty that took years to accomplish. In short, your collection is irreplaceable. Should it be lost to theft or water damage for example, *it cannot be reassembled*. Replacing the irreplaceable is not the point of this article.

But what if your collection *is* lost.... Is its **value** protected? You undoubtedly have homeowners or household effects insurance. Does that insure your collection? Probably not, advises my insurance agent; not unless it is included as *scheduled property*. Even then it must first be appraised and each individual item listed. What's more, the premium rate will most likely be several multiples of other insured property such as household furnishings. Your homeowners carrier doesn't even want to insure your collection because they have no good way to value a loss; so they make coverage expensive and complex to obtain.

What of mailing or shipping all or part of your collection - for example to have a stamp expertised, to send an exhibit for display, or to sell or purchase an item? What then??? We refer to two recent articles in Linn's to address this. First the USPS allows insurance on philatelic items *only if* no first class material is enclosed. That is if it can be mailed as *package service*. The Postal Service considers invoices, statements, application forms.....as 'having the character of personal correspondence' and must be sent first class. Your mail clerk may not be familiar with this ruling and may accept or even offer an insurance option. All this does is maybe give your mailing a little special attention - good luck collecting if you have a loss. FedEx will not even accept philatelic material for transport (officially), much less insure it. Actually, according to the Linn's article, FedEx has a don't ask, don't tell policy. I wonder what they do when you *have to* tell, as in making a claim. UPS, Airborne, and most other major shippers will accept (and insure) collectable stamps, although liability limits may be imposed.

Not long ago I purchased a White Plains souvenir sheet that was shipped to me by UPS. It made it to Knoxville, and then disappeared. Fortunately the item was covered either by the seller's private insurance or by UPS - at any rate though I lost the souvenir sheet, I had no financial loss. So lest you think shippers are infallible I assure you losses do occur.

So what is a poor collector to do to avoid a compound intrinsic *and* financial loss? Fortunately there is financial protection available - at a price that beats your homeowners company. There are companies that specialize in insuring highly valuable items. One of these that covers philatelic material is *Hugh Wood* - from whom insurance is available to APS members at very favorable rates, and no inventory is required (though your own inventory would be needed in the event of a loss). This is one of the benefits of APS membership that some overlook. (If it sounds like I am promoting APS membership, maybe I am).

The loss of all or part of our collection is not something we wish to contemplate, but as I experienced on a small scale with the White Plains sheet, bad things happen. Maybe these thoughts will give you pause to ensure against financial loss of a precious possession.