



# Thames Stamp Club Newsletter

April 2022

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The Thames Stamp Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, Sept. through June, at 7:30 P.M. at the Clark Lane Middle School, Waterford, CT. All area philatelists are invited. Annual dues are \$10.00. The club's email is [tbbee@aol.com](mailto:tbbee@aol.com). The club's address is PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333 and on the web at <http://www.ThamesStampClub.org>.

## March Recap

**Mar 9** – Zoom meeting was called to order at 1940 with five members in attendance. We received a letter from the APS regarding the Mighty Buck Club. Dee will look into how we can contribute. We sent a thank you letter to John Withers for his donation to the TSC. The Wayne Youngblood Collectors Club article on modern US forgeries was sent out to members. The usual monthly stamp shows were discussed and it was noted that the New Haven show is on for March. An APS presentation on the “Wild Life of a Philatelic Swindler,” completed the evening.

**Mar 23** – Zoom meeting was called to order at 1930 with nine members attending. We discussed the problem with hand-back cancellations at the Groton Post Offices. We were unable to show the completion of our presentation on the life of a philatelic swindler due to Zoom issues. The usual philatelic discussions completed the evening.

## April Meetings

**Apr 13** – Zoom meeting. All are invited. Presentation, last part of “Wild Life of a Philatelic Swindler.”

**Apr 27** – Zoom meeting. All are invited. Presentation, TBD.

## April Stamp Shows

**24 Apr 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Show** @ The Annex Y.M.A. in East Haven

**29 Apr – 1 May Philatelic Show** @ Boxborough Regency, Rt 111 at I495, Boxborough, MA

## Here and There

It is time to renew your membership in the Club. Dues are \$10/yr. Please mail \$10 to TSC, PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333. Even though Thamespex is over, you can still get your Thamespex 21 cover honoring the USS Cheyenne. This month's Cover-of-the-Month illustrates a Ceremony Program for the 100th Anniversary of US Submarines, held at the Submarine Base in Groton, CT on 27 Mar 2000. If you have a candidate for Cover-of-the-Month, please send me a scan plus a short write-up. I am circulating the stamp-circuit boxes; if you want to check out the box in your home for a few days, let me know. Everyone please stay healthy and safe. The following link will take you to the APS1 Newsletter: <https://stamps.org/news/c/news/p/1>

Philatelically yours,

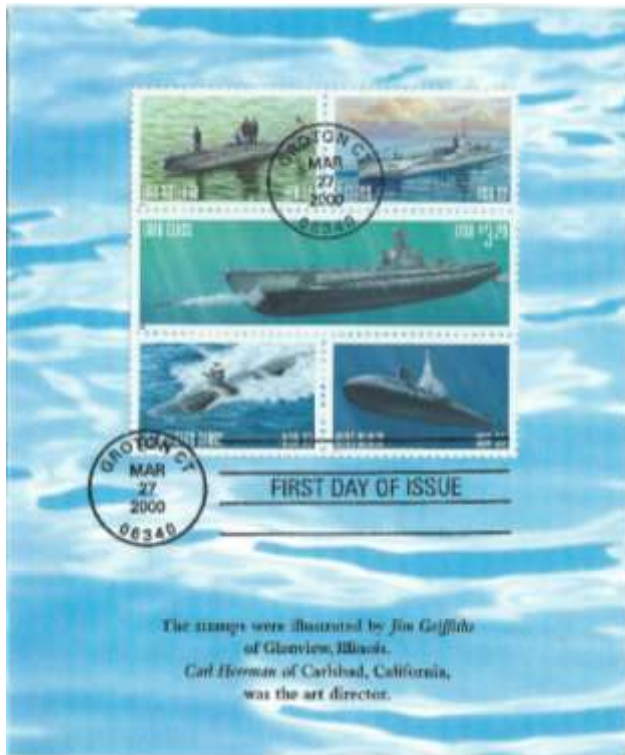
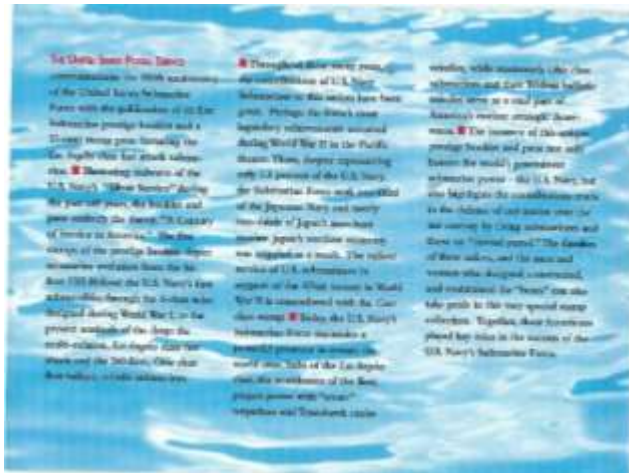
*Tony*

Tony Bruno

This month's featured cover is not really a cover but a Ceremony Program produced by the Postal Service to celebrate the release of a new stamp or set of stamps. The Ceremony Program doubles as a First-Day-of-Issue



of the Stamps. The illustration on the front cover of the US Navy Submarines Ceremony Program shows a scene of the submarine base superimposed with a scene of General Dynamics Electric Boat Division from the New London side of the Thames River. This particular Ceremony Program is a tri-fold with the history of the submarine outlined on the right. The center panel has a list of the attending dignitaries with their official titles and their role in the program. The list included Postal Service employees from DC Headquarters as well as politicians and US Navy representatives. Of note, both CT US Senators at the time attended but only Senator Christopher Dodd stayed for the program-signing event. In addition, I also got Capt. Lincoln's signature. He was the Commander of the



Submarine Base at the time. The right side of the program shows the five stamps released at the ceremony, cancelled with the First Day of Issue postmark, Mar 27 2000, Groton CT. The stamps depict the USS Holland, the first US Navy operational submarine, a WWI S-Class submarine, a WWII Gato Class submarine, the USS Los Angeles Class and an Ohio Class SSBN. The stamps are denominated and paid the following rates: USS Los Angeles, 33 ¢ - first class rate, S - Class boat, 22 ¢ - Post Card rate Ohio Class, 55 ¢ - Double first class rate USS Holland, 60 ¢ - International rate Gato Class, \$3.20 - Priority Mail rate Additional information included on the program are the stamp illustrator, Jim Griffiths of Glenview, IL and the Art Director, Carl Herrman of Carlsbad, CA. Neither attended the ceremony. Ceremony Programs are not listed in the Scott Specialized Catalogue of US Stamps, probably because they are not available to the general collecting public. To obtain one you must be present at the ceremony. The USPS distributes them to attendees for free. However, they are available on the secondary market and there are dealers who

specialize in ceremony programs. Most sell in the \$1- \$2 range depending on the value of the stamps. The submarine stamps were issued in a prestige booklet Scott # 3377a, 5 stamps in a pane # 3373 - 3377. The Los Angeles Class submarine was also released as a sheet stamp Scott # 3372 with USPS micro-printing. The booklet stamp # 3374 has no micro-printing.