



Thames Stamp Club Newsletter

February 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. The club's address is PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333 and on the web at <http://www.ThamesStampClub.org>.

January Recap

Jan 12 – Zoom meeting called to order at 1930 with seven members in attendance. Thamespex'21 covers are becoming a scarce item. If you still need one, get in touch with Obie while they are still available. The usual monthly stamp shows were discussed and it as noted that the New Haven show was cancelled for January. Charlie will check on the Waterford Library donation. We showed an APS presentation on the history and development of Luminescent Tagging on US postage stamps, Part 1, completed the evening.

Jan 26 – Zoom meeting called to order at 1930 with nine members attending. Charlie reported that there was no record of a donation to the Waterford Public Library. Members voted to donate \$100 to the Library. The Club received the nomination form from the APS. Members authorized the president and secretary to second the APS slate of officers for the APS board. The New Haven show will be back starting in February. We have permission from Wayne Youngblood to copy and distribute to TSC members a copy of his article on US Counterfeit Postage Stamps, which appeared in the Collectors Club journal Nov-Dec 2021. The usual philatelic discussions plus the presentation on Luminescent Tagging Part 2, completed the evening.

February Meetings

Feb 9 – Zoom meeting. All are invited. Presentation, Luminescent Tagging on US Postage Stamps, Part 3

Feb 23 – Zoom meeting. All are invited. Presentation, TBD.

February Stamp Shows

13 Feb 2nd Sunday Show @ Comfort Inn, Meriden (**Cancelled**)

20 Feb 3rd Sunday Show @ Eagles Wing Function Center, 10 Spruce St, Nashua, NH

27 Feb 4th Sunday Show @ The Annex Y.M.A. in East Haven

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 Soviet era holiday greeting Post Card. 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 APS Feb 1 Newsletter:

<https://stamps.org/news/c/news/p/1>

Philatelically yours,

Tony

Tony Bruno



This month's featured cover is an interesting example of modern postal history. The 44 ¢ first-class rate was in effect from 11 May 2009 – 21 Jan 2012. This cover was mailed on 15 May 2009 early in the rate period. It is franked with a 42 ¢ flag at dawn coil, Scott # 4234, with plate # P1111 printed by Ashton Potter. The 44 ¢ rate is made up with the 2 ¢ Navajo Necklace sheet stamp, Scott # 3750. The cover exhibits additional postal innovations at the time including a spray on cancel noting the post office, Trenton, NJ processing center. There is also a spray-on zip + 4 barcode applied by the optical scanner that processed the cover. The cover has a Mex-Mail label announcing the birth of a grandchild on 9 Apr 2009 and an interesting fantasy cachet of an amazing tree house. Note the flying boat that accompanies the address. The Sikorsky S-42 flying boat was the airplane



that opened the pacific to both mail and passenger service from San Francisco to Hawaii, Wake Is, Manila, and Hong Kong. S-42 was a production aircraft with four 700 hp. (522 kW) Pratt & Whitney Hornet S5D1G radial engines, three built: NC 822M, NC 823M, NC 824M. The aircraft NC 823M is shown arriving in Honolulu on 17 Apr 1935, piloted by Ed Musick, Pan Am's premier pilot. The arrival marked the opening of transpacific flight. Over the years the aircraft would set world records for load, speed, range and altitude over its 10-year life span.

Photo courtesy of the Pan Am Historical Foundation