



Philately for a lifetime of enjoyment

The *Postscript*
Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club
1904 Nanticoke Cir
Tallahassee, FL 32303

President's Message from Mike Francis

The health and vitality of any club or organization is predicated upon the actions and desires of its members and their participation in club functions. I encourage each of you to volunteer for presentations. We know many people are shy about speaking in public or don't know how to present their favorite topic. There are club members who will help you with these issues. Just call me at 850-385-1060 and I will see that help is on the way.

Another area you can help or participate in is writing articles for the *Postscript*. Here again, if you have trouble writing but have something "heat or interesting" you want to tell club members, make a draft and get it to me by mail or email at drmikf@comcast.net and myself or several other writers in the

club will help you. The message here is that there is no need for anyone in the club to be shy or embarrassed of their perceived shortcomings. I have found over the years that such shortcomings are either minimal or non-existent. We are all here to help each other, enjoy the company and enhance our philatelic experiences.

ELECTION NEWS: With the elections over you now have a complete set of officers for 2004. Given that we almost had no officers to vote on in November and December 2003, we have made great progress and meeting attendance has picked up. This is great news for all of us! Enjoy our hobby and have fun collecting. Mike

TSCC INTERNET SITE

As published in the Oct-Dec 2003 *Postscript*, the club as an internet site at www.virtualstampclub.com/apstallahassee.html

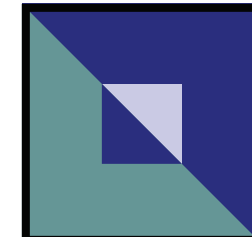
As Larry Benson mentioned in the last issue, this site is hosted by the APS free of charge for the club. We are in the process of updating the information at this web site to reflect our current officers and dues structure. This should occur in the next few weeks.

The home site for the Virtual Stamp Club is www.virtualstampclub.com/index.html

This site is full of fun and valuable information.



Mike Francis and Amy Smith at the 4th Annual Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival.



THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

American Philatelic Society
Member #1414

Volume 14, No. 1
January-March, 2004



Inside this issue:

Club Elects New Officers for 2004 2

Larry Benson retires as Editor of the Postscript 2

New Postscript format 2

Identify this stamp? 3

Club Dues Time Again 3

Philatelic Product Review 3

TSCC Internet Site 4

President's Message 4

Special points of interest:

- The USPS Customer Representative at the Orange Avenue Stations, Ms. Debbie Powell-Smith has accepted a position with the USPS in Washington, D.C. Debbie is currently on assignment in D.C.

- A special thank you to Helen Walsh for donating part of her late husband Steve's collection to the club.

- Has anyone seen or talked to Phil Spitzer or Frances-Jeanne???

Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival covered by Mike Francis and Ed Walters

Last week saw a frantic call placed to the home of Mike Francis, President of TSCC. The caller was Mrs. Pat Smith of Sopchoppy. Pat is the new Postmaster (PM) for Sopchoppy and has only been on the job since January, 2004. The call was for HELP! The USPS was going to have a booth at the 4th Annual Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival. Pat Smith was new and had just lost her clerk to another job. The PM had a special cancel but needed help with cancellations and manning the booth. Ed Walters and Mike Francis headed to Sopchoppy Saturday morning April 10.

We arrived at the Festival approximately 10:30am and found the USPS booth. Since Pat was PM she had to stay at the Post Office until it closed at 12:30pm. When Ed and Mike arrived at the booth, it was manned by Amy Smith, a master technician at the main Post Office in Tallahassee.

While we did some cancellations with the special cancel for the event over the next 4 hours, meeting people from all over the country was the highlight of the day. Of course the great smelling smoking barbeque pits right behind our booth and the great country singing right across the side street made the day delightful. Best of all, we saw the Worm Gruntin' contest. I think I will stick to philatelic matters and buy my worms from the local bait and tackle shop.

Ed Walters had the opportunity to talk with people about their stamp collections. Both of us also had the opportunity to promote the TSCC. We received several questions from people who had inherited stamps collections from their parents and wondered what to do with them. "Is it valuable" is generally the first question. Ed gave guidance on where to go for help and of course, letting

them know that the TSCC is willing to provide assistance at any level.

Toward the end of our time in the booth, which was more a table on street corner under the shade of a tree, we



Ed Walters tipping his hat to Amy Smith from Tallahassee's Main Post Office.

thanked Pat Smith for inviting us and said we would come back next year. We also thanked Amy Smith for such delightful company. Until next year!

Isla de Mas Afuera - Bogus or Real

Although the International Society of Worldwide stamp collectors classifies the Chile issued Mas Afuera stamps as bogus, they may be real stamps. The March

29,2004 issue of Linn's had an excellent article on page 44 about Farther Away Island or Mas Afuera. While Scott Catalog does not list the issues for Mas Afuera

there are those who believe the stamps were issued by Chile legitimately and should be listed. This is an ideal topic ripe for any collector's research and fun.

Larry Benson retires as Editor of the *Postscript*



Larry at the October 18, 2003 TSCC Stamp Collector Show

After 13 years as Editor of the *Postscript*, Larry Benson has retired as its publisher. It goes without saying that Larry has done an outstanding job as Editor. He deserves the gratitude of each and every club member for his years of service with the *Postscript* while he was also performing other club duties.

Mike Francis has taken over as temporary editor until a fulltime editor can be found.

As some of you know, Larry not only is a philate-

list but also delves in antique cars and "N" gauge model railroad trains. Many of us consider it simply amazing that Larry had the time to get a single issue of the *Postscript* published. But, he did every quarter for many years.

When there was not enough articles, Larry used his skill and knowledge of the hobby to fill in the space with valuable and educational information. On the lighter side, everyone of the past members of the club should

be nationally recognized experts on "Tin Can Mail" which is a subject Larry Benson knows very well. He has dispensed his knowledge of Tin Can Mail to us through the *Postscript*.

We hope to publish articles from Larry in the *Postscript* from time-to-time and hope he is enjoying all his hobbies. He surely has earned a well deserved break from the publishing business.

New format for the *Postscript*

Life would have been simpler if Larry Benson just continued in his gracious manner to publish the *Postscript*. Everything would have stayed the same and club members would not have been subjected to a change in *Postscript* format. Then again, the temporary editor can't resist changing things so all of us are reading the *Postscript* in a new format that is more newspaper oriented than the former format.

You will notice the use of color photos from time-to-time along with an index on the front page. The four page format will be maintained along with the mailing section on the top half of the fourth page.

One new section will be a short piece each issue or so relating to stamp identification. We are also researching another new section relating to "tools of the trade" that discusses the various pieces of equipment club

members use to aid maintaining their collections. Members should contact or email any of the officers if they have ideas about these new sections or any other type of articles, stories, or features they would like to see published in the *Postscript*.

If you think you have a valuable stamp collection, by all means have it insured and/or stored in a certified fire proof safe.

Club elects new officers

The TSCC has elected new officers for the 2004 calendar year. Past president Dr. Mike Francis was elected as President. Mr. Mickey Dwyer, who has been Vice President the past two years, has again been elected Vice President. Ms. Becky Reese, who has been Secretary for the past two years, has been elected as club Secretary. Mr. Larry Sharp was elected Treasurer.

While our by-laws allow for no

more than a continuous two year service period at any time, the laws were waived for Mickey Dwyer and Becky Reese in order to present a slate of officers to the club members. Without this slate the club would have been disbanded. Fortunately, the club has new officers and is thriving.

A very special thanks to Dr. John Goble, our past President, and Mr. Don Smith, our past

Treasurer, for their outstanding service as officers of the club. While club memberships were declining in many organizations all over the country, our club managed to survive and stay solvent. John, Mickey, Don and Becky did an outstanding job during 2002-2003 club years. Thanks from all of the TSCC members.



2004 Worm Gruntin' Cancellation from Sopchoppy, Florida

Identify this stamp?

Issues of the *Postscript* will feature a stamp that is hard to identify. Such stamps have no discrete English alpha characters to aid in its identification.

The stamp in the photo on the right is one of those "hard to identify" stamps for most collectors. Using the tools of the trade such as stamp listings, catalogs, the internet and specialty books, see if you can identify this stamp. It may not even be a stamp but one of those infa-

mous cinderella stamps that are not official postage.

If a member has a stamp that he or she cannot identify, send it or email an image of the stamp to the Editor at drmikef@comcast.net so that it can be introduced in the feature or discussed at the club meetings.

In future articles, this feature will list various resources used to identify such stamps. One of the best guides is Linn's Stamp

Identifier. It is a mandatory item in an serious collectors reference library yet it is inexpensive and easy to use. The beginning collector will find this book invaluable. The book contains a large alphabetic listing of stamp inscriptions, including Greek and Cyrillic listings and photos of difficult-to-identify stamps. This book can be found all over the internet. It is edited by Donna O'Keefe and the cost usually runs around \$10.



See if you can identify this stamp.

Club Dues Time Again

It is that time again to contribute to your club by paying your dues. Please pay your dues in April and early May. Those who have not paid by the first week in June will not be renewed.

Dues are \$5 for everyone except for children who pay \$1. For a first class club like TSCC, these are some

of lowest dues in the country. Your dues funds the rent at the Senior Center in Tallahassee, the annual Christmas gathering, the publication of the *Postscript* and other club functions. Bring your cash or check to the next meeting or mail to the Treasurer Larry Sharpe at 2518 Blarney Dr. Tallahassee, FL 32309

You can also mail your check to Mike Francis, 1904 Nanticoke Cir. Tallahassee, FL 32303

TSCC OFFICERS

President: Mike Francis
850-385-1060
email: drmikef@comcast.net
Vice President: Mickey Dwyer
850-574-5097
Secretary: Becky Reese
850-668-7001
Treasurer: Larry Sharp

Editor: Mike Francis
(temporary)
The *Postscript* is the quarterly journal of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club. Articles may be reproduced provided credit is given to this publication.

Philatelic Product Review

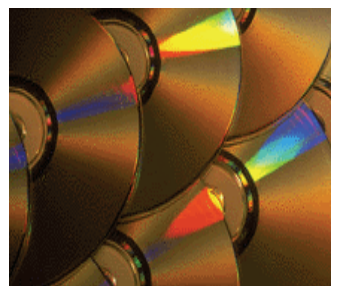
This issue we are reviewing STAMPLIFT BRAND Stamp Remover which is used to separate the stamp from any item. The small box contains a sponge pad on the bottom and top of the case and a plastic grid near the top to hold the stamps. You can separate stamps that are stuck together in 25-

45 minutes. The instructions warn you not to leave the stamps in for hours because the glue cannot be restored.

If you are careful the device works. The only restriction is the grill surface for the separation process. It is only 3x5 inches. The cost from Subway or any other



supply house is \$6.95.



If you have a large hard drive on your computer, you can place the Scott album CDs on the hard drive.