

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
By Glenn Vasbinder

In 1939, an employee in the advertising department of Montgomery Ward & Company was assigned the task of developing a Christmas "animal story" which could be distributed by the branches of his firm as a "give away" during the Christmas season. Robert May, an experienced advertising man, undertook to write a Christmas story for children as part of his daily work. He decided to organize his story around the "ugly duckling" motif.

After ample consideration of possible animals, he decided to use the reindeer, because the creature was readily connected with the traditional Moore story "A Visit From St. Nicholas." He decided to give the reindeer some trait which would cause him to be shunned, yet would be of great value to Santa Claus.

The fact that Santa traveled at night suggested that Rudolph might be given large, shiny eyes which could see in the dark. However, he decided against it because it was not sufficient cause for ridicule.

Finally, he decided upon a large nose, which had long been considered a legitimate subject of ridicule in Western culture. Many youngsters, like Rudolph have some distinguished weakness which might subject them to teasing from their playmates.

So popular was May's story that over 2,400,000 copies of the first "give away" edition were distributed that year. The story was not to appear again until 1946 and in 1947 it was brought out on a commercial basis. In 1949, Johnny Marks, May's brother-in-law, composed a song entitled "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer". The recording, sung by Gene Autry, was the reason it gained in popularity.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. The holidays are just around corner with the new year soon to follow! We look back on the old year passing and forward to the promise of the new year to come. The new year brings challenges to be overcome. Our annual stamp show will soon be just around the corner (which is always a challenge :>) There will be new stamps issued by the Post Office and old ones to be found from our favorite dealers. So have a great holiday season and look forward to better new year!

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Matt Benward, President NPS

* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Club Officers' Election

The officers election scheduled for last month was postponed until December during the Christmas Party. All offices are up for this election. You can see a list of them in the column to right on this page. If you interested in running please let myself or one of the current officers know. Ballots will be available during the first meeting of next month. Results will be announced at the ending of that meeting.

Voting for the 2009 stamp show theme

Also during the club meeting in December the club will be voting on a theme for the next years stamp show. There have been many suggestions. Please come to cast your vote.

Nashville Stamp Show 2009

Our annual stamp show will be held on March 14 - 15th at the Music Valley Event Center located at 2416 Music Valley Drive, suite #144 near Opryland Hotel. This is the same location as it have been is previous years Remember we always need volunteers.

Articles for this newsletter

If anyone would like to write an article for this newsletter, please let me know. It can be on any aspect of stamp collecting and can be of any length. I was thinking of the topic of "My Favorite Stamp" would be a good start for any collector. It could be from a few paragraphs up to one page. Please let me hear from you. Thanks.

New Members

Greg Adkins
Kean Daverao

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #61 Fall 2008

Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:
Marie Farmer

Matt Benward	President
Mark Block	First Vice-President
Dave Bodkin	Second Vice-President
Wesley Lepter	Jr. Vice-President
Tom Tribke	Secretary
Bob Picirilli	Treasurer
Marie Farmer	Delegate-at-Large

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Buy and swap at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting a 6:30.m., and Program at 6:45 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Madison Branch Library, 610 South Gallatin Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37216.

Kids under 17 get a FREE stamp packet at their first attendance. Ages 6 and up are WELCOME!

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Opinions expressed in THE GAZETTE are those of the writers. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nashville Philatelic Society or its members.

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Please visit our web page at <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org>

The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for June 2008 – August 2008

The NPS had its 6/9/08 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Six members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 5/27/08 meeting were read and approved. Ben Price won the door prize. Patricia Jackson's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but she wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt asked for additional recommendations for the 2009 NPS Stamp Show theme. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "What Happens When U. S. Presidents Die".

The NPS held its 6/23/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 6/9/08 meeting were read and approved. Ellie Eads won the door prize. Patricia Jackson's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but she wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Chuck Heihle and Bill Vance donated stamps to the Stamp Committee and Bill Vance also contributed items for door prizes. Thank you! Matt asked for additional recommendations for the 2009 NPS Stamp Show theme. Virginia Smith suggested the "40th Anniversary of the Moon Landing". The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 7/14/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seven members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 6/23/08 meeting were read and approved. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Tom Grimes won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Bill Vance reported on the recent Murfreesboro Coin and Stamp show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bill Vance and Tom Grimes donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the second quarter 2008 that was approved by the NPS membership. Matt asked for additional recommendations for the 2009 Stamp Show theme. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation by Matt, Tom Tribke and Bill Vance on "How We Store Our Stamps".

The NPS had its 7/28/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 7/14/08 meeting were read and approved. Karl Schwabe won the door prize. Bill Winstead won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt reported that three dealers had committed to our 2008 Nashville Stamp Show. Matt asked for additional recommendations for the 2009 Stamp Show theme. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/11/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 7/28/08 meeting were read and approved. Ben Price won the door prize. Virginia Smith won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received from Jim Young. Thank you! Matt asked again for theme recommendations for the 2009 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for an APS slide presentation on "Oney, the Traveling Dog".

The NPS had its 8/25/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 8/11/08 meeting were read and approved. Mark Block's application for NPS membership received first reading. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Ricky Wright's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Bill Vance reviewed the recent AMERICAD Stamp Show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Tom Tribke reported on the death of former NPS member – Dr. Axel Hansen. A card was sent to his family. Donations were received from Bill Vance for the Stamp Committee and door prizes. Thank you! Matt asked again for theme recommendations for the 2009 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for July 2008 – September 2008

The NPS had its 9/8/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 8/25/08 meeting were read and approved. Mark Block's application for NPS membership received second reading and approval and he was welcomed into the NPS membership. Mark Block won the door prize. Randal Coble's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Nick Munn suggested that exhibitors at nearby stamp shows be contacted to encourage them to also exhibit at our NPS show. This will be considered to expand exhibits at our 2009 show. Matt asked again for theme recommendations for the 2009 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation by Tom Tribke on the "Concorde on Stamps".

The NPS had its 9/22/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/8/08 meeting were read and approved. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Ricky Wright's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Bill Vance reviewed the recent Lexington, KY Stamp Show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received from Mark Block for the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Matt asked again for theme recommendations for the 2009 Nashville Stamp Show. Matt reported that our October meetings would both be held at the Piccadilly Cafeteria due to the holiday and early voting. Concern was expressed about the inability to contact and the continuing absence of Bob Picirilli. The business session was then adjourned for a limited monthly auction by Col. Gregory using lots brought in this night.

The NPS held its 10/13/08 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Eight members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/22/08 meeting were read and approved. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Scott Bastoky's name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Mark Block donated stamps. Thank you! Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the third quarter 2008 that was approved by the NPS membership. Matt announced that five dealers had committed for the 2009 Stamp Show. Members were asked to suggest themes for the 2009 Show. The business session then adjourned for an excellent presentation by Matt on "the Basis of Stamp Exhibit Preparation".

The NPS had its 10/27/08 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Seven members and two guests were present. Previous meeting minutes were not reading due the absence of the NPS Secretary. Bob Picirilli substituted to record this meeting's minutes. Thank you! There were no door or participation prizes. Greg Adkins' application for NPS membership received first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt announced that NPS elections would be held next month. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Tom Grimes donated stamps. Thank you! Matt announced that eight dealers had committed for the 2009 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 11/10/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 10/13/08 and 10/27/08 meetings were read and approved. Nick Munn won the door prize. Ricky Wright's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Greg Adkins' application was approved after second reading and he was welcomed into NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Nick Munn suggested contacting region stamp clubs to solicit exhibits for our 2009 Show. Bill Vance suggested including dealer business card images on a subscription basis in our 2009 Show program. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide program on "the Basics of Stamp Exhibit Preparation".

The NPS had its 11/24/08 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 11/10/08 meeting were read and approved. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Nick Munn won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Bill Vance reported on his recent "My Stock Only" Show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Mark Block donated stamps. Thank you! Matt reported that eleven stamp dealers had committed to the 2009 Show. Nick Munn suggested that an "un-judged exhibits area" be established for exhibitors who wanted to show their exhibits on an informal basis. This was voted on and approved. NPS members were encouraged to bring family and friends to the 12/8/08 Christmas Party. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The Story of the Christmas Tree
... author unknown

The Christmas tree came into general use in comparatively recent times. The custom began in Germany and was first mentioned in an anonymous chronicle in 1605. There is a story, however, that Martin Luther started the custom much earlier, putting candles on an evergreen to represent the stars on Christmas Eve.

Another story tell of Saint Boniface when he was a missionary in Germany in the eighth century. He was trying to stamp out the pagan rite of sacrificing people to the oak tree. He lead his followers into a forest at Yule time. Showing them a fur tree, he said it pointed straight upward to the Christ child. "Take this tree into your homes," he said, "as a sign of your new worship. It lives when the earth is darkest and has no sign of blood. Celebrate God's power no more in the forest with shameful rites, but in the sanctity of your homes with laughter and love."

By the beginning of the ninetieth century, all Germany had adopted the Christmas tree. The custom soon spread to most countries of northern Europe, but is still unusual in Italy, Spain, and Latin America. The date of the first Christmas tree in the United States has been given as 1804 at Fort Dearborn in Illinois, but research has failed to substantiate it; the date now accepted is 1832 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

December 25 of course, you will answer, a bit irritated. However, it is not so definite.

Some years ago, four churches in Vicksburg (Michigan) rebelled against the increasing commercialism of this Christian feast. By the way of protest they celebrated Christmas in the month of July. However, they could not part from the traditional white Christmas and had piles of artificial snowballs made.

There are really some unlucky people that cannot celebrate Christmas at all, not in December or any other month for that matter. The International Date Line is drawn somewhere in the middle between Asia and America at or near the 180 degrees meridian. On this border the calendar skips one day. Passengers of a cruse ship, that crosses the date line on Christmas Day decorated the ballroom in vain and Christmas Day became second Christmas Day.

Even more peculiar is the situation for two islands off the coast of Alaska. The inhabitants would be able to holler their mutual Christmas greetings, were it not for the fact that because of years of changes, the islands each celebrate Christmas on a different day.

In England in 1752 a change was made in the centuries old calendar to make it the same as on the continent. Regardless of protest this change was put through, so that England had to drop 12 calendar days and the December 25th all at once became the January 6th in the new calendar, which caused much disapproval by the population. So the authorities were forced to decree that because of this calendar change everyone could celebrate Christmas twice in 1752.

And it can be worse. A small parish in Louisiana celebrates Christmas when we collect Easter eggs. The reason for this is simply a shortage of time. The local population earns their living from trapping muskrats. This trapping season is very short, but they will have to live off that income all year. So there is no time for festivities. But in March or April they catch up and then celebrate Christmas with all their might.

Are you still sure now that we are doing it right when we cut the turkey on December 25th, including decorating the tree, lighting fireworks and exchanging presents?

A Philatelist's Psalm
by Herman Herst, Jr.

Stamp collecting is my hobby, I shall not be bored.
It maketh me to do research on far places.
It causeth me to correspond with odd people.
It keepeth me alert.
It leadeth me into areas of understanding for curiosity's sake.
Yea, though I live through a winter of inclement weather.
I will feel no boredom, for my stamps are with me.
They provideth me a means of escaping from the tensions of my responsibilities.
They filleth my house with books.
My cash runneth lower.
Sureth interest and knowledge shall follow me all the days of my life and
I will be listed in the ranks of Philatelists forever.

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