

# Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



## July 2023

July is National Fireworks Safety Month. Each year, thousands of people, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite dangers of fireworks, few people know the associated risks - devastating burns, injuries, and fires. Let us celebrate this year's Independence Day with safety!



*Scott #5019*

Notes from our June meetings:

The club's expired certificate of deposit was cashed out and funds deposited into our checking account.

Volunteers still needed for our September 15-16 BIRMPEX Show at Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights.

The club's annual dinner meeting will be held October 17<sup>th</sup> at Shield's Restaurant, 1476 West Maple, Troy.

The club legacy project continues as a work-in-progress. It was noted that the last update to our constitution and by-laws was in January, 2009. President Rusch will review and make recommendations for a possible rewrite.

Upcoming Events:

Club meetings – July 18th at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. There is no meeting on the first Tuesday this month because of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Meetings are still being held in room #4 at the rear of the senior center.

Modern Stamps sale #511, July 1<sup>st</sup>, at its Oak Park Facility.

SUMMERPEX 2023, Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sokol Cultural Center, Dearborn Heights.

Ken Rusch, President  
Fred Como, Vice-President  
Phil Kwasny, Secretary  
Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer  
Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer  
Michael Swope, Editor-Webmaster

# SS Greater Detroit

Michael Swope



Shown here is an unused post card featuring the steamer Greater Detroit, published (c. 1925) by the Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Company, Detroit, Michigan.

If you wanted to get around the country in the early 1900s, you either caught a lift on a train or hopped aboard a steamship. And of all the steamships plying the waters across the country, the biggest and grandest in the Midwest was the Greater Detroit. Passengers would board in the evening, maybe eat dinner and then sleep the night away. According to a D&C advertisement, the "Greater Detroit is the largest and most palatial steamer of its kind in the world, far exceeding in size, safety, comfort, speed and decorative effects anything heretofore attempted or accomplished in the construction of passenger steamers destined to sail on the inland waters of the United States."

The hull of the side-wheeler Greater Detroit was launched Sept. 15, 1923, by the American Ship Building Co. at Lorain, Ohio. It was towed to the company's yard in Detroit at the foot of Orleans to be decorated and outfitted by an army of workers. It took nearly a year to install all of the ornate carved wood, plaster and paintings. She could carry 2,127 passengers, and had 625 staterooms. It took 275 officers and crew to run her. Had a car? No problem - She could carry 103 vehicles on her main deck.

As more cars rolled off Detroit's assembly lines and more Americans got behind the wheel, D&C scaled back the number of its runs; many were canceled altogether. The sun had set on the golden age of passenger steamers on the Great Lakes. Service on the Greater Detroit officially ended on May 9, 1951, and she would not sail again. The Greater Detroit was scrapped in June, 1956.