

# The Triangle

November 17, 2021

Member: APS #715 & NW Federation

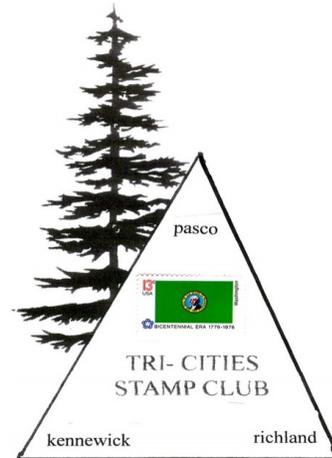
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## Meetings 2021

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** - Changed due to Thanksgiving week. Program is something starting with E or Q. Meeting will be at Steve Sandlin's house at 2250 Davison Ave., Richland  
VACCINATION and MASKING are REQUIRED.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** - Changed due to Christmas week. We will be meeting at Margaret Dunn's house for our annual Christmas Party. More information to follow.

**October** meeting was held at Margaret Dunn's home with a program of Show and Tell. Members were to bring something starting with the letters G and/or Y.

We had 8 people that came to the meeting. Randy and Steve Sandlin came for the first time in a long time.

There was an interesting variety of G and Y items. Two people brought things from Yemen. Dan brought a green stamp from Greenland. Randy brought his Great Britain albums and Yugoslavia. Steve Recher brought some postcards from Germany.

We had some good conversation about what people have been working on since we saw each other.

Margaret told them that we will need to find someplace else for November but that she will host the December Christmas party.

## Trans-Pacific Airmail Service Jerry Johnson

The first Trans-Pacific airmail service started on November 22, 1935. The plane was a Martin 130 and it was named "China Clipper". Only three M 130's were made. The first flight carried 111,000 letters and started at the Alameda Airport in San Francisco. Overnight stops included Honolulu, Midway, Wake Island and Guam. The route was FAM 14. The cover shown below was for the return flight; it was postmarked in Guam on December 3, 1935 and it arrived in San Francisco on December 6. The cover has a cachet for the flight.



### YSCA – FREE 3-MONTH DEAL!

To celebrate National Stamp Collecting Month, the Young Stamp Collectors of America is offering a special free 3-months ADDED to their 12-month membership to anyone who starts or renews their membership before October 31st!

Anyone between the ages of 6 to 17 can apply, and there are Individual memberships or Family memberships available if you have more than one Young Collector at home. A membership with the YSCA will get you a Welcome Kit with stamps and hinges, access to our monthly E-Newsletter, a monthly lesson on C3a, and the chance for awards such as stamp packets and covers. Not only that, but we are soon expanding to include monthly videos and virtual classes available to all members! Click <https://stamps.org/learn/youth-in-philately> to learn more and to apply today!



## MANAGING HUMIDITY

By Jay Smith March 25, 2021

During the in-between phase of every spring and fall, stamp collections may be most at risk from humidity damage.

I was reminded of the subject by a client who had recently moved to Texas, a part of the country new to him. He is planning for how to control humidity in his stamp room. He knows that he does not want to use the whole house air-conditioning "too much" during the middle of the summer, for comfort, conservation, and cost reasons. However, where he now lives, he may need to control his stamp room humidity all summer. So he was asking about adding a stand-alone dehumidifier in the stamp room.

I am certainly not an "expert", but my understanding is that "around 50%" is the target relative humidity for stamps. 40% would be even better for stamps, but the lower the percentage, the higher your electric bill. If you can limit the stand-alone dehumidifier's effect to mostly the stamp room -- and the rest of the house is below 65% humidity, then I would go that route (40-50% in the stamp room, 65% in the rest of the house). You might be able to balance that by controlling how wide open you keep the door to the stamp room, if open at all. It also depends upon if there is a air-return intake in the stamp room (very unlikely as they are normally centrally located in a house) -- if there is an air-return intake in the stamp room, then whatever dehumidification happens in the stamp room essentially is trying to happen to the whole house.

The general humidity standard for documents, photos, etc., seems to be "below 65%", however, stamps have the added problem of the adhesive (and also that fungi especially like to eat adhesives). Thus closer to 40-55% is better -- and reasonably achievable -- for stamps.

While the stamp adhesives (either traditional or self-stick) LOOK stable, they are actually essentially slow-moving liquids. (Just as plain window glass is essentially a liquid -- 200+ year old window panes are usually now thicker at the bottom than the top.) Humidity (and heat) can have a great affect on stamp adhesives.

I also suggest NOT relying solely on the humidity indicator on the dehumidifier (if there is one). I also suggest that you get two small battery-operated indicators, one for the stamp room and one for the general house area. You can get humidity / temperature units, that also record the recent highs and lows, for less than \$20. (I should perhaps start selling them?) Temperature is also a big factor, both in paper preservation and maintaining the gum/adhesive in original condition. Sites like this <https://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/storing> refer to keeping temperature below 75F. That is important. (That site has lots of interesting information.)

Unfortunately, all stand-alone dehumidifiers operate by essentially being a reverse refrigerator, which means that HOT air is blowing out the backside. The electrical input is essentially converted to cooling (the dehumidification coils) on one side and transferring the resulting

heat to the coils on the exhaust side. The cold coils cause humidity to condense on them and drip into a catch basin. So, the net effect, as long as you carry or pipe away the resulting water from the cold-side coils, is a dryer room, but a HOTTER room.

So, one has to ALSO cool that now-hotter room.

Since our friend plans on not cooling the whole house \*as much\* during the hottest weather, he may have to "play" with the ductwork vent openings to direct more whole-house cool air to the stamp room that contains the dehumidifier (and to also counteract the heating effect of that machine). But that means essentially directing more "untreated", humid air into the stamp room. What I do in this regard is leave the stamp-room air-supply vents completely open, but close down (only partly) some of the vents in other parts of the house. If done in moderation, that will direct more air pressure to the stamp room. I experiment with all that while turning the thermostat warmer (in the summer). HOWEVER, one must not forget to open everything back up by late fall -- it is an annual adjustment cycle. It is best to make good notes of what works so you (or others) don't have to re-invent it each year.

Lastly, it is critically important to regularly change the air filters on the air handling system. Clogged air filters result in higher dust, fungus, and pollen counts in the stamp room -- and in your lungs. Any of that debris can become the starting point of future "toning" or "foxing" (if/when humidity/temperature becomes too high for some reason, such as a "weeks-long power outage in Texas, not that such a thing would ever happen..."). If you have a dusty house or office, like we do, or a potential health issue, then a stand-alone HEPA air filter machine can do a huge amount of good. (Though again, just due to a motor running, the air filtering machine will heat the room a little bit, so additional cooling may be required.)

At least twice a year/season (mid-period of use and \*immediately\* after end of period of use), check the cleanliness of the BOTH the cold side and hot side coils of the dehumidifier. Follow the manufacturers directions in how to clean them. (There are probably no instructions, so best to Google for what is safe to do -- some chemicals / cleaners are extremely destructive to the coils. And you can't just spray water into the unit because there are various electrical components in there.) If nothing else, assuming you don't have your own air compressor, take the unit to your local friendly car repair place and ask them to "blow it out" (but be VERY CAREFUL that the coils' fins are not bent or damaged by too-high air pressure blowing on them -- the folks there may not understand this unless you explain it to them).

Stay dry and cool!      Mike Monahan [m2navy63@gmail.com](mailto:m2navy63@gmail.com) 303-884-4552  
435 Sundance Dr. Richland, WA 99352

A boy goes to his School Career Advisor to talk about what he should do after school. The Advisor says to him, do you have any particular interests or talents? The boy says, I really love stamps, studying them, collecting them, everything about them. The Career Advisor shakes his head and says, I'm sorry to tell you this, but philately will get you nowhere.

## Cashtown, PA

Cashtown is a census-designated place in Franklin Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania, United States. The community was part of the Cashtown-McKnightstown Census-Designated Place (CDP), until it was split into two separate CDPs for the 2010 census.

As of 2010, the population of Cashtown was 459. A post office called Cashtown has been in operation since 1833. According to tradition, the community was named for the fact a local tavern owner required that payment be made in cash.

Cashtown is located west of Gettysburg in western Adams County. U.S. Route 30 bypasses the center of the community and forms the northern edge of the CDP. Old U.S. 30, the original Lincoln Highway, is the main street of Cashtown.

Cashtown Post Office 372 High Street, Orrtanna, Pennsylvania, 17353.



### COLLECTION HELP

Heather Stafford has a huge stamp collection her Grandmother left her. She is looking for advice on how to sell and more information about stamp collecting in general. You may contact her at PO box 370, Joseph, OR 97846, Phone: 541-263-2047, email [heatherrstafford@gmail.com](mailto:heatherrstafford@gmail.com).

She sent pictures of pages from the binder showing the following countries:

Uruguay; Yemen; Yemen Arab Republic; Romania; Republic of South Africa; South Africa.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT HER.

## USPS Announces New Stamps for 2022

The U.S. Postal Service has announced several new stamps to be issued in 2022.

“The new 2022 stamps are miniature works of art, designed to be educational and appeal to collectors and pen pals around the world,” said USPS Stamp Services Director William Gicker. “As always, the program offers a variety of subjects celebrating American culture and history. The vivid colors and unique designs of this year’s selections will add a special touch of beauty on your envelopes.”

Upcoming stamps honor Pete Seeger, Katharine Graham, Edmonia Lewis and women cryptologists of World War II, commemorate passage of Title IX and the establishment of the National Marine Sanctuary System and much more.

The American Philatelic Society has a list with pictures, but here are the names:

Lunar New Year — Year of the Tiger; Blueberries; U.S. Flags; Love 2022; Edmonia Lewis; Butterfly Garden Flowers; Mountain Flora; Title IX; Sunflower Bouquet; Tulips; Katharine; Graham; Pete Seeger; Women’s Rowing; Eugenie Clark ; National Marine Sanctuaries; Pony Cars; Elephants; George Morrison; Mighty Mississippi.

### Stamp Programs

Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Times	31	32	35	34	38	43	45	50	50	55	45
Rate	.55 -.58	.55	.55	.50	.49	.47	.49	.49	.46	.45	.44
Issued	140	154	149	139	159	201	160	252	233	253	188
FCM Billions	15.2	16.5	17.5	18.5	19.7	20.7	21.8	22.6	23.2	25.8	

The UPS over the last years has issued stamps at fewer times; raised rates; issued fewer stamps and their First Class Mailings (FCM) have declined.

This could be caused by many things that have come about over the years. I don't know about any of you, but I use the UPS for about 20 to 25 mailings a month. I have had occasion to visit with postal employees and the ones I visited with have a very low opinion of the current services.

Let us hope the USPS does not go out of business or we will only have foreign to collect.

### Heavy Parcel

I can't believe how stupid that bloke in the Post Office was.

He said that my Parcel was too heavy and that I needed to put more stamps on it, like that's going to make it lighter.