

PNC³



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Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club – PNC³

American Philatelic Society Affiliate # 185

Vol. 23, No. 9

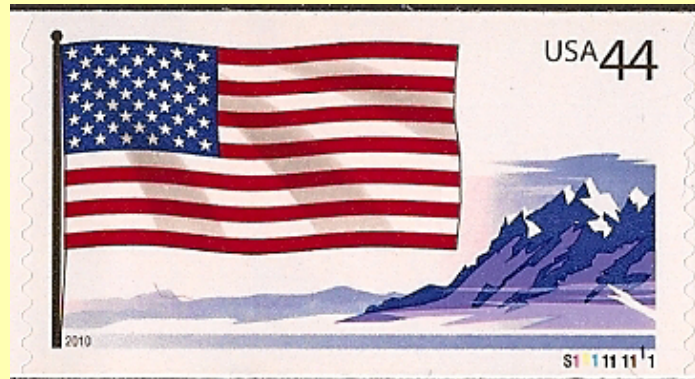
September 2010

Whole No. 267

Selected Images from this Issue



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Subtle difference found...
page 116



Effects of a higher "1"... page 119 ▲



▶
Odd
number on
a PNC...
page 122

◀
New
misalignment
...page 117



Coil Line

Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club

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The Classified Ad rate is six cents a word per issue, with a minimum of \$3.00 per individual ad. (Two 50 word ads per year per member are available at no charge. There is a 10¢ a word charge for words over 50.)

All material, including articles submitted, will be edited and formatted for inclusion in **Coil Line**, and must be received by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

Coil Line reserves the right to edit copy as necessary.

Coil Line is published monthly, and as a member benefit is included with paid up membership of \$12.00. Alternately, an electronic full color version of **Coil Line** is available worldwide with PNC³ membership at \$12.00. Foreign dues rates are: North America (Canada and Mexico) \$17.00; Outside North America \$22.00. First Class Mail delivery in the United States is available for an additional \$6.00 yearly. Past issues of **Coil Line** are available at \$2.50 per copy. Quantities are limited.

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All correspondence, letters to the Editor, and advertising questions, should be sent to **Coil Line**, c/o Ronald Blanks, PO Box 9282, Chesapeake, VA 23321. Phone 757-478-8719; email coillineeditor@yahoo.com.

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704-735-5484

President's Message

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Thanks for Past Efforts

Before anything else, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to Ron Maifeld and the rest of the outgoing Board for their valued service to the club over the last four years. I realize that this is a time-consuming and sometimes frustrating job, and applaud all for their selfless service during their respective terms. The support and encouragement of the membership has been an important factor in their success, as well as the many good ideas put forth for the improvement of the club.

Thanks also to the many Committee Chairs and especially to those others such as our dedicated Editors and Auctioneer whose tireless efforts on behalf of the club make it the wonderful hobby specialist group it has become. I hope to be able to count on their continued support and encouragement during the next two years.

I would be remiss if I did not make special mention of our highly active Catalog Committee, which continues to work on the next chapter of the PNC³ Catalog of Plate Number Coils and the next edition of the PNC Values List. This committee is constantly looking for more help, and the more hands at work, the faster the chapters will be completed.

Input Welcome

The deadline for this column to appear in the September issue of *Coil Line* will have passed by the time I return from our Annual Meeting in Richmond, so I'll have to wait until next month to report on what is sure to be an exciting event. I hope I'll have met a number of members by then and received a lot of feedback and suggestions.

For those who could not attend, I heartily encourage you all to contact me if you have any projects in mind, or suggestions to offer. This kind of input is critical to the growth of the club, since new initiatives are essential to keeping our hobby fresh and interesting to our members.



This brings me to my main topic for this month's column. In my biographical sketch in the *May Coil Line*, I mentioned that my main goal for the club going forward is to stimulate interest in PNCs and grow our membership. I need your assistance to do this.

PNCs Presentation for Local Clubs

Those members who attend meetings of local stamp clubs know that meeting planners are always looking for presentations on stamp topics. If you've been reluctant to stand up and talk about PNCs because you don't think you have the right material, I might have a solution. Some time ago, I put together a group of pages using the Microsoft Word program that illustrate some of the more interesting aspects of PNC collecting. I will be happy to share it with anyone who would be willing to present it to their local club.

It could take between 10 and 45 minutes to deliver, depending on your own style, and there's also a set of talking points that I could send if you want to have some hints. The response I've had from presenting it to a couple of clubs has been quite good, and it's really easy to do. I can send it to you by e-mail (gctrinks@cox.net), or you can write to me for a printed copy (16415 W. Desert Wren Ct., Surprise, AZ 85374).

– Gene Trinks

PNC³ Regional Meetings

Upcoming regional meetings ...

SESCAL 2010 - Los Angeles, October 2

You are invited to join Southern California PNC³ members who will be meeting on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at the SESCAL 2010 Stamp Exhibition. SESCAL will be taking place at a new location this year, the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 5711 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

The meeting begins at 1:00 PM and will be hosted by club members Jewell Meyer and John Himes. Door prizes will be given, and several informative talks are being prepared for the meeting. There will also be plenty of time for club members to buy, sell, and trade extra material at the end of the meeting. Check for the precise room location when you arrive at the show. Visitors to the meeting are always welcome. Admission is free, and a special parking rate of \$7.00 is available to show attendees. Full information on the show is available at www.sescal.org.

Want to Sponsor a Regional Meeting?

Contact Tony Bruno for suggestions. He can put you in contact with others who have taken on the task. Several members have made it a regular habit of promoting meetings in their area.

Regional Meeting Chairman

Tony Bruno, PO Box 624, East Lyme, CT
06333-0624; email, tbbee@aol.com

(PNC³ meeting announcements in this column are free. Please submit to the Editor three months prior to the meeting date. Thank you.)

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Contact: Ron J. Kramer,
ronjkramer@aol.com, 575-521-1336
(see page 114 or 124 for 1-time insertion rates)

37¢ Flag Sennett Coils with Subtle Die Cut Types by Ron Blanks

PNC³ member Nick Fabri has done it again. In January he found an interesting PNC variety among large mixtures of envelope clippings he's often searching through. This PNC involves Scott 3632A, the 37¢ Flag coil from rolls of 100 produced by Sennett Security Products (SSP). Nick noticed a previously unreported subtle distinction among the serpentine die cutting at the sides of these stamps.

Enlargements of two S1111 PNCs at right show that the top coil has peaks and valleys that appear deeper than the bottom coil. Nick consulted with member and used-PNCs dealer Bob Murrin for his reaction. Bob reported that his S1111 inventory shows about 56% have the deeper-shapes variety.

"deep"
(narrow
angle)
die cuts



"shallow"
(wide
angle)
die cuts



(please
see
page
118)



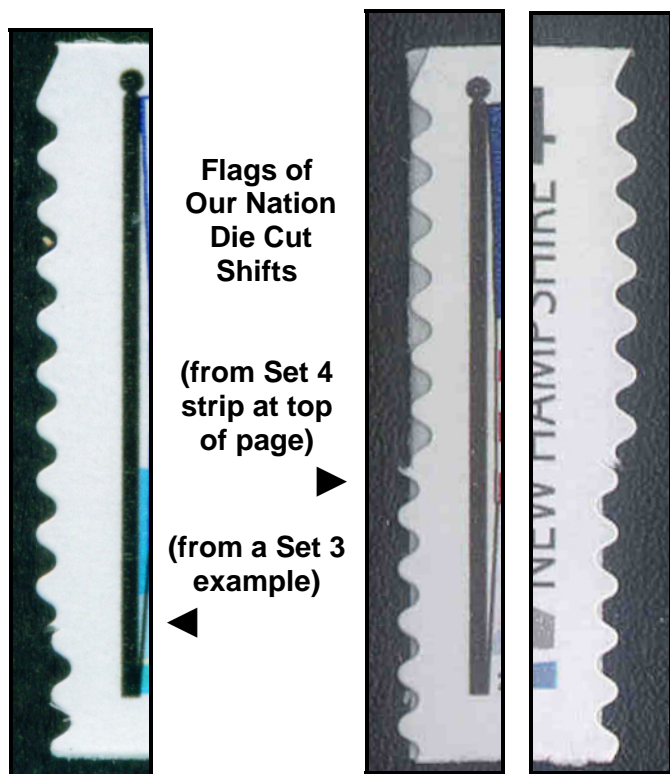
Readers' Forum



I recently purchased a roll of the new 44¢ Flag of our Nations stamps (Set 4) and found that it had the die cut shift that had been reported on the earlier issues. Shown above is a scan of the five stamp strip with plate number. It shows up best on the right because the backing paper hides the cut on the first stamp. I thought it might be of interest.

— Steve Blair #1329

[Editor's reply: Member John Ford wrote in last month's Forum that his illustrated 44¢ Kentucky from Set 3 has a shift that appears slightly higher than the one shown in December's *Coil Line*. But a side-by-side illustration showed they looked the same, and I wrote, "Whatever causes the shift seems consistent." Now we have Steve's misalignment that is definitely higher up. Below are enlargements of one of the Set 3 examples (left), and both ends of Steve's strip.



Perhaps any die cut shift consistency is only among rolls of the same Flags of our Nation set.]

In looking through the August issue of *Coil Line*, I was somewhat startled to learn that the Avery version of the self-adhesive Banner stamp with plate number V333 has still not been located in any significant quantity. I received a cover in my mailbox sometime in May with this PNC and, since there had been a recent report of another such PNC single, I assumed that they would soon be commonly available. It seems that such is not the case, however. I am therefore urging all members to check their holdings of Avery Banner PNCs and report to the Editor (or to me) any findings of what might be an elusive plate number. — Gene Trinks #1



[Editor's reply: Other members also wrote about V333 finds. Dan Farrar found a V333 on cover in a post office trash can last November 27th. Andrew Barr sent the photocopy (above) of a V333 coil on a cover he noted was received in October or November 2009. And Gene Ernst sent me copies of a V333 cover with a twist (subject of the "Direct Mail Sighting" story on page 122). Recent reports of finds going back to late autumn 2009 suggest that V333 will turn out not to be scarce, once supplies of lower numbered rolls are used up. This August 7th I received a cover in the mail still using a V222 coil.]

(Readers' Forum continues on page 119)

(from page 116)

The term “shallow” for die cuts is already used in another context (relating to the shape on Avery rolls of 100 found next to the short “knoll” or “mesa” shape of two adjacent coils, when misalignment keeps these vertical row separators intact and not cut by row-slitting). To simplify, we can label the two 37¢ Flag shapes as “narrow angle” and “wide angle” types. The top coil on page 116 has a valley shape angle that is a little narrower than 90 degrees; the bottom coil’s angle is wider than 90.

A German collector pointed out the angle distinction after reading about my 2005 discovery of similar die-cut types (see below) among the (5¢) Sea Coast two-sided large-date coils from Ashton Potter (Scott #3874) rolls containing P2222 PNCs.



The Sennett 37¢ Flag rolls of 100 are also known with S2222, S3333 and S4444 PNCs. From what we know so far, all higher-numbered rolls only have the wide-angled shape die cutting.

Editor’s Message

“The times, they are a changin’...” I just returned from the APS StampShow in Richmond, Va. held this past August 12-15. I was able to attend two of the four days, and was only a few minutes late to my first annual PNC³ meeting. A report about the meeting is forthcoming in a later *Coil Line*. But I wanted to mention that we were provided some summary of the PNC³ board meeting that was held earlier. Discussion included where the club’s finances stood in relation to *Coil Line* requiring the lion’s share of club expenses.

A postage increase is likely next January, and about 600 of the 752 members still receive a printed *Coil Line* every month. It doesn’t seem realistic that donated funds to the club can reliably make up the shortfall between the \$1 per month dues and actual club expenses in the years ahead, so the club will have to decide on what changes should be made in the future.

I bring this up now before full details are reported because coincidentally, we received an open letter to the club from an anonymous member concerned about the “state of matters” regarding club participation. While it doesn’t address finances, it does indirectly raise questions about that other precious resource, time. You will find this interesting missive starting on page 123. We were able to include Ron Maifeld’s response to website-related concerns, and we welcome your comments as well.

— Ron Blanks

Coil Line

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The Journal of the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club

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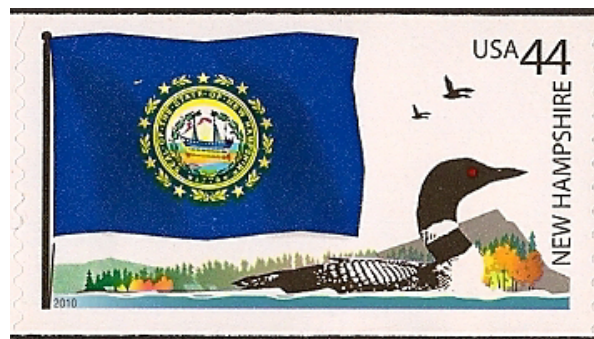
Ron Maifeld

Readers' Forum

(from page 117)



The dark blue cylinder digit in the plate number (second from last 1 of S111111111) is high in a roll of the 44¢ Flags of Our Nation (Set 4) I recently found. Maybe not so dramatic a cylinder mis-aligned as others before, but note some interesting effects (below). — Mark Schultz #2114



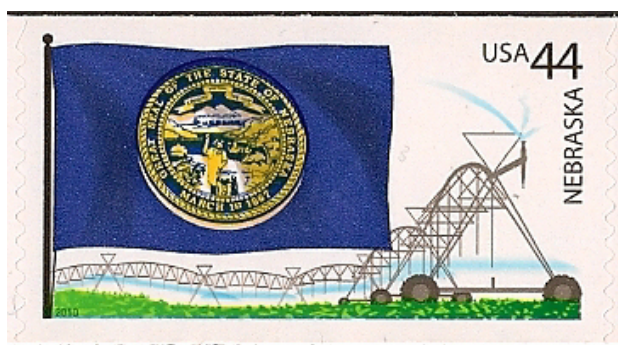
New Hampshire — blue field of flag is high, state seal is high (especially the ship);



Montana — blue field of flag is high so that you see white beneath it, state seal is high and its words “oro-y-plata” are obscured;



New Jersey — state seal is high, water hovers over bucket, surf is high (creating white areas on shore);



Nebraska — seal is high (creating a white crescent below and other effects);

[Editor's note: The next two stamps appear in a roll after New Jersey, of course; their images are not shown due to the minimal blue-ink shift results.]



North Carolina — blue field of flag is high;

New Mexico — balloon netting on small top hot-air balloon is high [hard to see];



North Dakota — high flag, seal is messed up.
(See also an Open Letter on page 123.)



V3211 VP (1) \$600 V3211 VP (2) \$600 V3211 VP (3) \$250 clipped at right 78777 10/10 \$400 77777A V/P \$35 9.9999 10/10 \$10 9.9999 11/10 \$10



V13222 \$160 22211 round sh \$200 2222 round sh \$20 87888 11/10 (1) \$35 87888 11/10 (2) \$35



66666
10/11 die cut
"A" incision
on paper
no damage
\$1500



#7 #6 #5 #4 #3 #2 #1

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|--|---------------|
| | pnc covers | | plus shipping |
| 658 | Flag over Porch | | \$100 |
| 154 | "G" | | \$20 |
| 117 | Transportation | | \$15 |
| 126 | No flag, trans or first class | | \$20 |
| 4 | 18c Flag 1, 2, 2+, 3 all size #6 | | \$25 |
| 67 | 20c Flag | | \$15 |
| 85 | 22c Flag | | \$20 |
| 21 | Postcards | | \$5 |
| 58 | Honeybee | | \$10 |
| 11 | First Day Covers | | \$25 |
| 7 | DAV | | \$10 |
| 1283 | First Class | | \$100 |
| 1 | FoP 9.9999 | | \$20 |
| 1 | FoP 66666 11/12 #6 to Poland | | \$10 |
| 2 | 29c Flag #5 WH #6 to Germany | | \$12 |
| 1 | Diner 22211 round shoulder | | \$350 |

18c Flag full set with light purple machine cancels
#6 is a hard one to find - #7 even harder \$1200

Rarities and hard to find items

Dan Forgues
PO Box 116
Forest Falls, CA
92339-0116
pnc3nv@aol.com
pnc3# 1037L

I'm open to offers and trades
Large scans available for any item
The rarities on this page are on the report list



#5 misperf \$15 #2 seam line \$15 #2 into frame \$20 #2 untag \$20 #5 untag (1) \$20 #5 untag (2) \$20 1111 untag \$20



1111 bt on ep paper 1111 bt on ep \$20 1211 bt on ep \$20 1222 bt on ep \$20 #6 (1) \$400 #6 (2) \$400 #6 violet cancel \$600
45% bt shift \$25

Outgoing Thoughts

This will be my wrap-up article as PNC³ President, although I will be officially out of office when you read this. It's been a whirlwind four years while crisscrossing the country attending regional and national PNC³ meetings.

During the past four years I have attended PNC³ annual national membership meetings held at the annual summer APS StampShows, traveling first to Chicago (Rosemont), IL in 2006, and in following years to Portland, OR, Hartford, CT, Pittsburgh, PA, and just last month to Richmond, VA.

Since becoming president, I've attended Regional meetings in Riverside (APS AmeriStamp Expo) and Los Angeles, CA (SESCAL), Charlotte, NC (CHARPEX and APS AmeriStamp Expo), Cleveland, Ohio (Garfield-Perry), Chicago, IL (Chicagopex), Arlington, TX (APS AmeriStamp Expo) and hosted the Plymouth, MI (Plymouth Show). PNC³ has had a booth at many of these shows and always recruited a few new members.

PNC³ co-sponsored, along with the APS, a first day of issue ceremony for the 41¢ Beautiful Blooms coil and booklet stamps in Portland, Oregon. Attendance at the ceremony topped 225 and was a resounding success. We sold a lot of ceremony programs at the show and have since used excess programs as promotional pieces and door prizes.

Attending the National and Regional Meetings has given me the opportunity to meet many of our members and form new friendships, and has been one of the highlights of my presidency.

I've been a member of the PNC³ Catalog Committee since December, 2003 and plan on continuing in that capacity. Unfortunately the web site experienced problems last year. I hope to spend more time on bringing the website back up-to-date, now that my term as president has ended.

I've been very pleased with the changes to *Coil Line* over the past few years and feel that we have a first-class publication. The first issue of *Coil Line* printed in color (as an experiment) was September 2007. Following in November of that year, we started printing the cover in color on a higher-quality coated paper. Harold Brown resigned as editor after 17 years.

With the November and December, 2007 issues of *Coil Line*, we made a host of changes. Distribution changed from Alan Thomson in New Hampshire, who was responsible for assembling, printing and mailing *Coil Line* for 17 years, to Brian Snippen in Oregon. We went to a full-color electronic version of *Coil Line* in January 2008, and currently have a color front page on the printed edition mailed to members.

Todd Uebele, Sr. took over as editor of *Coil Line* in November 2007 and guided us through the transition to color. Todd agreed to serve a one-year term, and as his term was running out, we found a new editor. Ronald Blanks stepped up to the plate and has been doing a wonderful job as editor since taking over with the January, 2009 issue.

In August, 2008, we changed to a magazine style format with staples in the center fold, and in October, 2008, we introduced a new protective cover for *Coil Line* to help minimize handling problems while in transit through the postal service.

Gene Trinks organized a "Tagging Summit" at the Hartford APS Convention and the results were shared with the membership and the media. Our own Catalog Committee, Scott Publishing and the Durland Catalog have embraced the results and used our recommendations.

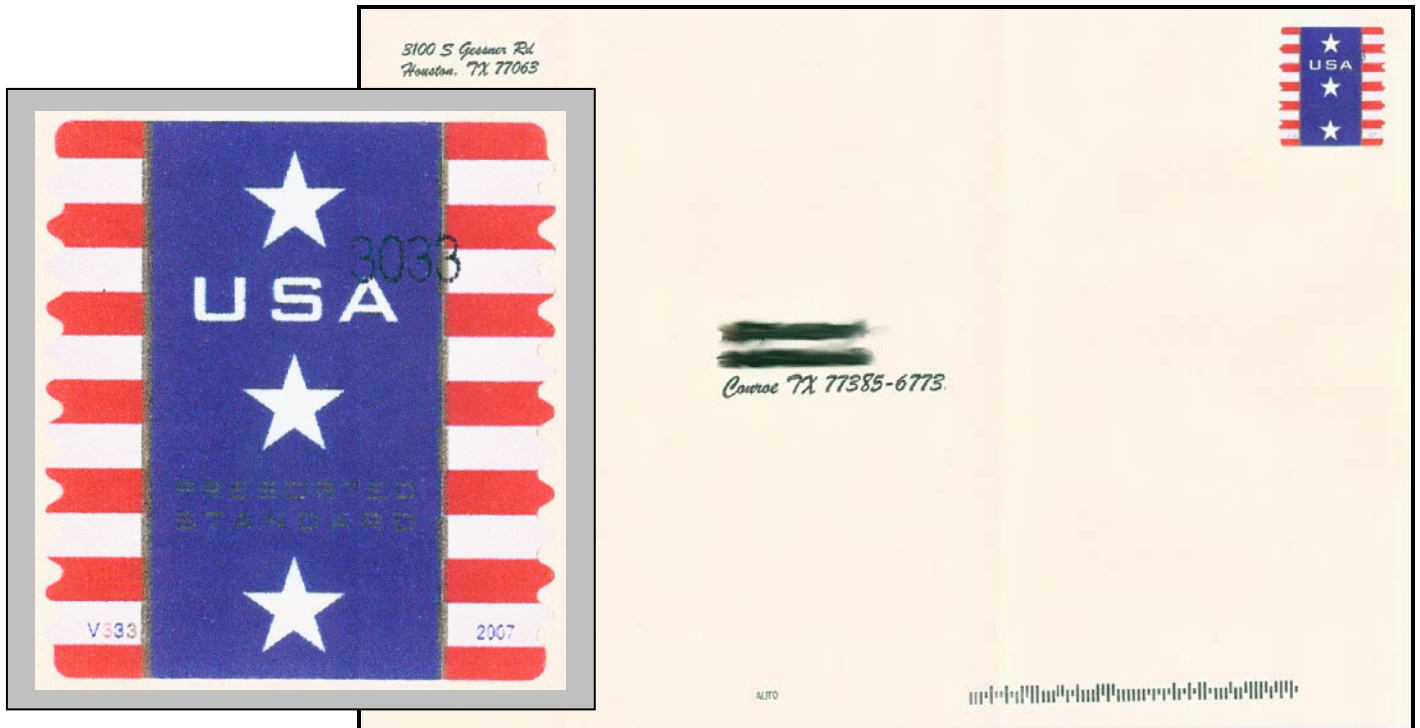
The August 2006 issue of *Coil Line* shows a total membership of 871. This issue of *Coil Line* lists a total of 752 members. The numbers fluctuate over the year and we have an aging membership, but I think that on the whole, we are not doing too badly.

I feel that my tenure as President has been a fruitful one for the club, and I thank you for the honor of serving as President for two terms.

Last, but not least, a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has helped me during the past four years to make the Plate Number Coil Collectors Club the GREAT club that it is. I won't list any names because the list would be humongous, but the help that I've received has been overwhelming.

Welcome to our new president Gene Trinks. I plan to stay onboard and help where I'm needed.

— Ron Maifeld



(10¢) Banner V333 PNC with “3033” printed on it affixed to advertising mail (Inset: stamp close-up)

PNC³ member Gene Ernst mailed in color photocopies of a direct-mail piece with a PNC V333 example of the (10¢) Banner from Avery (shown above; Gene’s separate enlargement of the stamp area allowed the nice inset to be created). Of note is a black-ink “3033” printed on the stamp.

Gene wondered if the black number was a back number that was printed on the wrong side (large coil rolls are numbered on the reverse, nowadays every ten stamps, as a counting guide to users). While a couple or so coil issues several years ago were back-numbered every stamp, rolls today are numbered in increments of ten, so that would rule out a “wrong side” numbering mishap.

In reality, this is a lettershop mailpiece number, printed along with the other mailing data apparent on the front of the cover. The tiny “AUTO” printed to the left of the barcode (enlarged below) is closest in font style to the “3033” number



on the stamp. When mailers use personalization on the insertion material, they often add these numbers somewhere on the cover

as well as on personalized inserts. These numbers are used if one of the lettershop insertion machines has a mishap (such as jamming). The operator can simply use the numbers to synchronize the insertion stations again so the correct inserts and envelope match when the “assembly line” is restarted.

Below are excerpts of two direct-mail covers I received in 1981 with control numbers that computer impact printers applied ahead of stamp-affixing.

(please see next page)



Membership Update

Mailing List Available

Rental of the club mailing list is available upon request. A one-time usage fee of \$50.00 includes preprinted address labels. Contact Harvey Wales, Secretary by email: hwales16@aol.com

New Applicants

Bill Henderson (2165)
338 Wells Dr
Eureka, CA 95503-6432
(707) 443-7443 (day & evening)

A Stanley Hietala (2166)
4881 Woodridge Dr
Duluth, MN 55811
(218) 729-7042 (day & evening)

Carolyn Milligan (2167)
11210 Slippery Elm
Austin, TX 78750
(517) 331-8451 (day & evening)
jimmilligan@austin.rr.com

(The members committee will recommend for or against membership.)



Address Changing?



Change of Address forms and membership applications are available from Harvey Wales, Secretary, 13 Birmingham Place, Vernon Hill, IL 60061-2103. Email: hwales16@aol.com.

Both forms are also on our website at:

www.pnc3.org.

Information Changes

Jewell Meyer (614)
soilspect@yahoo.com

Todd Ginsberg (1935)
7712 Haggans Ln
Austin, TX 78739

James Gebhard (2076)
jdgebhard@gmail.com

Previous Membership Count	749
New	3
New Membership Count	752

(DM Sightings, from previous page)

Stamps are normally affixed last so numbers printed in the stamp area are hidden to help make the mailing seem more personal (note the limitation in 1981 of using the same font for the addressing). You can also find examples today where these numbers appear in various places on the outside.

In the past, catching mismatches with the numbers was a manual operation. Lettershops now can use equipment that read barcodes of the numbers to alert if inserts mis-match. Below are examples from inserts that matched cover numbers.



An Open Letter to Fellow Members

In a recent issue, a member pondered the question of why our membership is plummeting like a ship anchor. While the excuse of a "bad economy" is easy to swallow and shifts the blame to an unseen boogie man, it is merely a scapegoat that distracts from the real problem. The real problem is us, everybody. From our leadership, to the members, to the *Coil Line* staff, we have all let this ship start sinking.

The world has changed and unfortunately we are not changing with it. We're stuck in a bygone era and either we cannot or will not move forward. Look at our website; it illustrates how we just quit caring. Half the links are dead. (please see page 124)

Classified Ads

PNC USED SINGLES, used strips, MNH PS5s. Great prices! Guaranteed quality! No hassles! Visit <http://www.angelfire.com/ca5/HimesPNCs> or send LSASE for lists to John Himes, PO Box 453, Cypress, CA 90630 - 0453. Member 957

CLASSIFIED AD rates are 6¢ per word, with a minimum cost of \$3.00 per insertion.

PNC³ members are entitled to two free 50-word ads per year. (There is a 10¢ charge for each word over 50 with free ads.) Contact the editor to place an ad.

(Open Letter, from previous page)

As recently as 2008 there were over 100 updates per year, and then in 2009 there were 9. We just quit trying. 2010 has 8 updates, but most of these are “the new *Coil Line* is in the mail”. There is even a link for Netscape on the homepage, even though nobody has used Netscape since 2002.

Then we have our glorious message board, if you can call it that. One or two posts a month if you are lucky. An interested party asks a question and it is weeks or months before someone answers it. We just quit caring. Prospective new members are going to find us online. That is a reality. What they find now is an outdated, uncared-for, digital cobweb factory.

Now let's look at our newsletter. From 2007-2008 *Coil line* averaged 16-20 pages. July 2010 it was 12 pages, with four of those pages being the cover, standard discloser info (publisher, elected officers, etc.), membership updates, and current plate number listing. That is one-third of the newsletter. Heck, the same classified ads run every issue. Nothing new. There are NO advertisers in there at all. Whose fault is this? We, the members, are to blame. I am willing to bet *Coil Line* gets very few submissions from our membership. My guess is that it is a struggle to fill

Coil Topics Index this issue...

37¢ Flag (Sennett) subtle die cut shapes.....116

44¢ Flags of Our Nation, Set 4 die cut shift....117

44¢ Flags of Our Nation, Set 4 color shift.....119

(10¢) Banner V333 w/ “3033” printed on it....122

The Roll Size chart remains unchanged from July.

Display Advertising Rates

PNC³ Coil Line

• Full Page	\$ 100.00
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• Third Page	\$ 65.00
• Quarter Page	\$ 45.00
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• Eighth Page	\$ 20.00
• Back Cover	Add \$ 50.00
• Inside Cover	Add \$ 25.00
• Color Ad (for full page)	Add \$ 100.00
• Color Ad - Electronic Version	Add \$ 25.00

(Discounts available for multiple insertions.)

twelve pages. It is always the same few members writing for the rest of us. No input, nothing. We just quit caring.

Folks, we are on a sinking ship. The old guard has grown weary and cannot bail the water from the boat any longer. It is up to us. We need to pick up those buckets and get to bailing. We need a new interactive Web presence. We need a new message board that is easier to use and integrated with the website. We need members to contribute both online and in *Coil Line*. People do not board a sinking ship; they avoid it. New members will come if we make PNC³ an active community. We need to seek out advertisers and we need to offer members something for their club dues — something besides an outdated website and 6-8 pages of new information a month.

— *An anonymous member*
Webmaster Ron Maifeld replies: There is a lot of truth in the writer's letter. I'll admit that part of the problem rests with me. The website data loss could not have come at a worse time. I've been in over my head for a year or more. Frankly, website recovery was just overwhelming, a constant challenge to tackle it.

I can't promise any quick resolution for the website. But I will have more time available in the future than I had in the past, and hope to spend more time on solutions. One of the challenges is the very scant new information to report. I also need to stay up-to-date faster with the most recent coil issues. *(In time, other club officers will also be responding—at least indirectly. Readers' replies are welcome.)*